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SOVIET INITIATIVES HIGHLIGHT UN DISARMAMENT SESSION

LD041135Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jul 78 p 5 LD

[T. Kolesnichenko Ye. Rusakov and V. Matyash dispatch: "To Make Detente Irreversible"]

[Text] New York--The UN General Assembly special session on disarmament is over after 5 weeks of intensive work in the UN headquarters on the East River. The course of the general discussion and also the final document which has been adopted reflect the fact that ending the arms race and implementing real disarmament constitute one of the deepest aspirations of the peoples.

The special session has fully confirmed the desire of the people's masses to end the arms race, to deepen and expand the process of the relaxation of international tension and to make it irreversible.

Unswervingly pursuing a Leninist foreign policy, the Soviet Union submitted a broad and realistic program to solve the cardinal tasks of disarmament and strengthening peace and the security of the peoples. This program embraces both nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction--which represent a particular danger to mankind--and also conventional armaments. The broad complex of measures contained in it were favorably received by most delegations. The document "On Practical Ways To End the Arms Race. The Soviet Union's Proposal," submitted by the Soviet Union for the session's consideration, essentially became the session's main working document, and the basic thoughts and ideas contained in it found reflection in the final document.

One of the main sections of the final document--the declaration on disarmament--notes that the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, is impeding efforts aimed at further reducing international tension and asserting international relations, which are based on peaceful coexistence and trust among all states and the development of broad international cooperation and mutual understanding. The arms race is impeding the implementation of the aims of the UN Charter and is incompatible with its principles.

The General Assembly pointed out that general and complete disarmament under effective international control is the ultimate aim of the states' disarmament efforts. Effective measures for nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war are of paramount importance to ending the arms race.

The action program for disarmament adopted by the UN forum contains the primary disarmament tasks, which the states must swiftly begin implementing to halt and reverse the arms race and to impart the necessary impetus to efforts aimed at achieving genuine disarmament.

The special session participants also expressed their profound conviction that the successful completion of the talks between the USSR and the United States on limiting strategic offensive armaments must represent an important step toward nuclear disarmament.

In the opinion of the assembly delegates, it is necessary to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons as an integral part of the efforts aimed at halting and reversing the arms race. They also stressed that the gradual reduction of military budgets on a mutually agreed basis would contribute to curbing the arms race.

The General Assembly stressed that a world disarmament conference, which was conceived, as is well known, by the Soviet Union, must be convened as soon as possible.

The results of the session convincingly demonstrated the tremendous magnetic force of the Soviet initiatives aimed at curbing the arms race. The international community, UN Secretary General K. Waldheim noted in an interview, rated highly the constructive character of the Soviet document "On Practical Ways To End the Arms Race. The Soviet Union's Proposals." I believe, K. Waldheim said, that these proposals have been a considerable contribution to the cause of disarmament.

In a statement here at a press conference devoted to the results of the UN forum, A. Harriman, prominent American public figure and politician, veteran of American diplomacy and member of the U.S. delegation at the special session, stressed that the Soviet people and their leaders, headed by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, wholeheartedly desire the ending of the arms race and the insuring of lasting peace.

No Miracle, But Progress

LD051531Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jul 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[V. Matveyev/M. Sturua article: "The United Nations: An Imperious Call"]

[Text] A positive new stimulus has been given to the cause of disarmament--this time on behalf of the UN member states, whose representatives, over the last 5 weeks at the General Assembly's special session, have examined all the aspects of the problem of disarmament, the ways and means of ending the arms race and the role of this international organization in efforts aimed at promoting disarmament.

The General Assembly special session has not worked a miracle: Disarmament has still not become the practice of mankind. This forum, although not having cleared away the tremendous obstructions and barriers which still exist on the path toward a world without weapons, a world without wars, has nevertheless brought to light, more precisely and more fully than ever before, the nature of those obstacles to disarmament and has outlined the top-priority measures which are essential for progress in this key area of contemporary international relations.

That is the basic meaning of the declaration on disarmament adopted by the session. The completion of this document did not proceed without difficulties, which continued until the very last hours of the session. The questions discussed affect sensitive areas of national and state interests of the countries concerned. Taking these circumstances into account, the coordination of the viewpoints of the delegations which participated in the session was no simple matter. Moreover, certain delegations attempted to create artificial difficulties, thus rendering the work of this forum more complicated. The "leading light" in this matter was the delegation of the PRC, which has not concealed its reluctance to accept the whole idea of disarmament. A document which it has disseminated in recent days raised, for instance, sharp objections to the proposals that force should not be used in relations between states!

The will, which was demonstrated in the speeches of the vast majority of delegates, that the disarmament deadlock must be broken and that real disarmament measures must be initiated, prevailed over the obstructionist tactics of those who link their calculations and schemes for the future with stoking tension and speeding up the arms race.

One of the main sections of the final document adopted by the session points out that the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, is hampering the efforts for the further relaxation of tension and the firm establishment of relations based on peaceful coexistence and trust among states. [paragraph continues]

The document confirms that the ultimate goal is general and complete disarmament under effective international control. It is emphasized that effective measures of nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war are of paramount significance. The disarmament action program adopted by the United Nations contains a list of the chief tasks whose implementation is essential for the progress of disarmament. The great importance of the successful completion of the talks currently being held between the USSR and the United States on strategic arms limitation is pointed out.

Special note should be made of the fact that the General Assembly advocated the convening of a world disarmament conference in the near future. In insisting on such a conference, the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are guided by a desire for measures which will be as effective as possible and which will lead to the ending of the arms race. The General Assembly session, which has now ended, confirmed that specific steps by all governments concerned are required for a decisive shift toward disarmament.

The proposals submitted by the Soviet Union for examination by the General Assembly, concerning practical steps to end the arms race are, to a great extent, embodied in the contents of the session's final document. Our country has drawn attention to the most urgent questions awaiting solution: the need for measures designed to end the nuclear arms race, the strengthening of the nuclear weapons nonproliferation regime, the banning of nuclear weapons from the territory of states where none exist at present, the prohibition of the creation of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction, including the neutron bomb, the total prohibition of nuclear tests and the adoption of other equally urgent steps designed to insure a turning point in the struggle for ending the arms race. These proposals were at the focus of the discussions at the United Nations.

The NATO Council session, which took place in Washington at the end of May, was an object-demonstration of the activity of those circles which are spurring on the arms race. The ominous activity can and must be countervailed by the peace-loving forces with joint action and a determination to safeguard and defend peace. This can be achieved only by ending the arms race. The fact that the widest range of governments are aware of this truth is, in itself, no small achievement of the UN forum which has just ended.

SOCIALIST PROPOSALS INJECT NEW SPIRIT INTO MBFR TALKS

LD031129Y Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 29 Jun 78 p 3 LD

[I. Melnikov dispatch: "Vienna: Criteria of Sincerity"]

[Text] Vienna--As is well known, the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe are held behind closed doors. However, they do have a kind of pretty accurate "barometer"--the joint press conferences by representatives of the Warsaw Pact countries and NATO for accredited the journalists in Vienna. When some "fizz" has entered the talks, the hall is full; if the sessions are proceeding routinely, only 15-20 correspondents appear.

Every Thursday since 8 June the hall of the Concordia Press Club has been filled by an animated, impatient crowd of journalists. Let us explain: The plenary sessions at the talks are held on Thursday and, on 8 June, the Soviet delegation head N.K. Tarasov submitted on behalf of the USSR, the GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia important new proposals which immediately found themselves the focus of attention of all Vienna meeting participants without exception.

The socialist states' initiative has evoked everywhere the liveliest interest and has awakened in the world public the hope that the problems under discussion will be transferred as soon as possible onto the plans of the practical elaboration of an agreement. There is no need to say how urgent the need for military confrontation in the center of our continent is for the cause of peace and security of the peoples--Europeans are more tired than anyone of living on mountains of weapons in Europe. More than anywhere, the confrontation between the armies of the two military-political alliances is particularly dangerous.

So far the talks among the 19 states in the Austrian capital have yielded no specific results. The individual positive features in the discussion of particular questions have by no means brought the delegations nearer to concluding an agreement. Comrade L.I. Brezhnev made a realistic, principled assessment of the prevailing situation in his recent speech in Minsk. He noted that the socialist countries' proposals are perfectly clear and precise. They cite specific figures for the Soviet and American troops subject to withdrawal during the first stage. And these figures are substantial. For its part the USSR is prepared to withdraw over the course of a year three divisions overall, along with the corresponding military equipment, including approximately 1,000 tanks.

It is proposed that the armed forces of the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries be reduced in such a way that their equilibrium or, as they say, parity is preserved. As a result of the troop reduction by all countries, establishment of an identical total ceiling for each of the groupings in central Europe is proposed.

"Incidentally, the very idea of this ceiling is in accordance with what the Western countries proposed," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said. "Although, of course, we firmly believe that no participant in the talks is entitled to avoid the reductions by hiding behind the back of other participants and, still less, to increase his armaments at the expense of others' reductions.

"The socialist countries are offering their partners a reasonable, realistic compromise. In submitting their proposals they have traveled even more than their half of the way."

The initiative put forward by the Soviet Union, the GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia is based on a most important element--strict recognition of the fact that an approximately equal correlation between the numerical strength of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries has taken shape and exists at the center of the continent. No really effective and equal reduction of troops and armaments in the given region can be insured without recognition of this reality.

Taking into account many theses of the West's position, the initiative of the four socialist states directly participating in the talks reflects a consistently constructive approach toward solving the problem of reducing troops and armaments in the center of the continent. Proposals in which the Warsaw Pact countries stated their consent to the establishment of equal collective levels of numerical strength of the NATO and Warsaw Pact armed forces in central Europe--900,000 men each, including 700,000 ground forces each--were placed on the table in the redoubt hall.

The reaction aroused in the West by the socialist states' proposals is characteristic. Analysis of newspaper commentaries, the course of the press conferences in Vienna and, finally, the conversations which we have had in the corridors of the Hofburg Palace with the participants in the talks make it possible to conclude that the 8 June initiative has made a great impression in the North Atlantic bloc leading circles. After the NATO Standing Committee had studied the latest Warsaw Pact proposals, an AP correspondent reports from Brussels, official NATO spokesman D. Kidd described these proposals as a "considerable step by the East."

As the socialist countries' initiative is analyzed in increasing detail in the West, the resolution and constructiveness of the step which has been taken are becoming obvious to any commentatory who is to the slightest extent objective. The caution and skepticism displayed at first in the Western press out of intertia or ill will are gradually giving way to a more sober and benevolent attitude. Hamburg's DER SPIEGEL cites the opinion of Alfons Pawjelczyk, chairman of the Bundestag subcommittee for disarmament and military control questions: "After this response from the Soviet Union any doubts about whether it is seriously interested in the results of the talks on reducing armed forces disappear."

But it would be naive to believe that the enemies of detente would cease their operation even in this atmosphere, which is extremely unfavorable to the dissemination of misinformation. On this occasion they chose Munich's SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG as one of their mouthpieces. In a commentary under the headline "Trap at the Talks?" An official (but anonymous) NATO representative unhesitatingly declared that "the new proposals are no basis for solving the disputed key issues."

Statements like this are no credit to their authors. Judging by appearances, it is precisely this which forced the "NATO representative" to remain in the shadow of obscurity.

We asked Emil Keblusek, head of the CSSR delegation, to assess the situation created at the Vienna meeting and to describe the prospects which have been opening up before the participants since the submission of the June proposals.

"It is now," he said, "5 years since the signing at the preparatory consultations in Vienna of the final communique which enshrined the basic principles of the future agreement on the mutual reduction of troops and armaments in the center of the continent. It can be said with total justification that over the entire 5-year 'distance' the socialist countries have strictly observed the spirit and the letter of that document. [Paragraph continues]

Their proposals have been all-embracing and have envisaged the reduction of not only all branches of the armed forces but also armaments and combat equipment. Unfortunately, the Western negotiating partners failed to express readiness for such broad and comprehensive reductions. And in his speech in Minsk Comrade L.I. Brezhnev very correctly noted that everything now depends on the West's political will. The reaching of an understanding in Vienna would make it possible in the future to move on to a discussion of other specific questions of military detente in Europe.

"Our new joint initiative clearly demonstrates a desire to start solving in a business-like fashion and with the utmost responsibility complex issues such as limiting the arms race and disarmament. At the same time this is also our answer to the widespread Western propaganda campaign that the recent NATO Council session in Washington about the so-called 'Soviet threat' was also a part. With the aid of this campaign the NATO ruling circles are attempting to justify their plans for the buildup of military might.

"When they put forward the new initiative," the Czechoslovak ambassador noted in conclusion, "the socialist countries stated that the proposals previously submitted by them remain in force. Their proposal on not increasing the troops of the direct participants during the negotiating period is of particular importance. We remind people once again that its implementation would be an important first step toward reaching an agreement and at the same time would create a favorable climate for further negotiations."

...the 15th round of meetings in Vienna has reached its climax. This is determined not only by the pages of the calendar. The socialist community countries' initiative has injected a powerful fresh spirit into the talks. On the basis of how fully the Western delegations accept it Europe's people and the entire world public will be able to judge objectively the extent of the NATO states' readiness to implement measures of military detente. As before, the Vienna meeting of the 19 states continues under the motto: There is good will on the part of the Warsaw Pact members; the ball is in the court of the Western countries.

BUNDESTAG DEPUTY BACKS SOCIALIST MBFR STAND

LD011744Y Moscow TASS in English 1716 GMT 1 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, July 1, TASS--The socialist countries' stand at the Vienna negotiations testifies to their "serious interest in concluding a relevant agreement". Their interesting proposals provide an opportunity for conducting negotiations and reaching compromises. This has been stated to journalists here by Alfons Pawelczyk, Bundestag deputy from the Social-Democratic Party of Germany, chairman of the parliamentary commission on questions of disarmament and control over armaments.

Approximate equality and parity in the sphere of conventional armaments, i.e. the principle which was clearly emphasized during the Bonn visit of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev, has been advanced as the aim of the discussion in the new proposals of the socialist countries, he said.

"The time has come for us to elaborate in the sphere of politics mutual ecompromise proposals, to stop the unbearable arms race, since it is not only dangerous from the military-political viewpoint, but is irresponsible economically. Negotiations cannot be conducted in an atmosphere of mutual mistrust, and both countries should demonstrate will for peace", Alfons Pawelczyk stressed.

PRAVDA ARTICLE MARKS BERLIN CP CONFERENCE ANNIVERSARY

LD0411557 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jun 78 p 4 LD

[Yu. Zhilin article: "Communists and the Fate of Detente"]

[Text] The Berlin Conference of European Communist and Workers Parties was successfully held 2 years ago. It touched off an extremely wide range of questions. But they all related in one way or another to the problem of detente.

Indeed, peace, security and cooperation--the things for which the conference participants called--are component elements of the process of strengthening detente. As far as the struggle for social progress is concerned, the joint document regarded it on the one hand as a factor which determines to a large extent the development of international relations and, on the other, as a phenonmenon which in each country is also dependent on the development of the world situation. In other words, the problems of social progress were also linked in the closest possible way with the problems of detente.

The second anniversary of the Berlin conference provides weighty grounds for talking about the most urgent problems of the international situation and in this connection about the role of communists in the contemporary world.

As is well known, the conference participants stated that substantial positive shifts marking transition from a policy of tension and confrontation to assertion of the detente line of policy has occured in the international situation. At the same time they drew the attention of public opinion to the fact that world peace has still not been guaranteed, that detente is still not firm and that serious obstacles persist in the way of reliable security and cooperation.

Recent events confirm this assessment. There are weighty grounds for asserting that there is now considerably more mutual trust in Europe than at any time in the past decades. But at the same time obvious attempts by imperialist circles to exacerbate tension can be seen in the international arena. This has found expression primarily in certain dangerous trends in the U.S. administration's policy, in the long-term armaments program adopted under the administration's direct influence, by the May NATO Council session in Washington and in the emergence of new hotbeds of tension in Africa through the fault of the imperialist states.

The Berlin conference participants saw the potential possibility of this turn of events. In their final document they noted that the intensive continuation of the arms race, the accumulation of increasingly large stockpiles of weapons, including means of mass destruction, the preservation of foreign military bases on other countries' territories, imperialist pressure and interference in internal affairs are sources of direct threat to peace, security and cooperation among states.

From the viewpoint of the prospects awaiting mankind it is very important to understand the social nature of the zigzags in the policy of the imperialist states' ruling circles, particularly on problems relating to disarmament. It can be said that these zigzags reflect the two kinds of understanding by the West's ruling circles of their class interests.

A certain powerful fraction of monopoly capital has an economic interest in whipping up the military business. Politicostrategic considerations which are connected with aggressive schemes and which stimulate the arms race play a major role. [para cont.]

But there are also factors acting in favor of detente. Many sober-minded representatives of the ruling class of the Western countries have reached the conclusion that thermonuclear conflict will never be a "profitable concern." The awareness that there is no alternative to peaceful coexistence has also determined the policy of those Western figures who approach the question of war and peace not from the viewpoint of the short-term [konyunkturnyy] politicoeconomic interests of individual groups but with the understanding that the fate of their class as a whole depends on the this question's solution.

The struggle between the two aforementioned trends is highly complex. As yet the result lies in the rut of "armed peace" and not military detente. No particular breadth of vision is needed to be a "hawk"--a representative of the interests of the military business is a commonplace matter enshrined by the practice of decades. Both a broad view of the modern world, a sufficiently firm political will and the considerable ability to resist the various "pressure groups" are needed under capitalist conditions in order to advocate, not only in words but in action, detente and, still more, the arms race.

If the prospects of detente depended only on the correlation between these opposing trends within the ruling circles of monopoly capital, they would look pretty gloomy. However, the forces mentioned in the Berlin conference document are playing an increasing role in the contemporary world. These are the socialist countries, the peoples who have won freedom and independence, the movement of nonalined countries and the working class and other broad social and political circles in the capitalist countries which advocate peace and cooperation among the peoples. These forces posses levers of influence on the capitalist states' foreign policy. Their united actions may result in the eventual extension of detente to the military sphere.

The participants in the Berlin conference stated that the "communist and workers parties of Europe will resolutely oppose any acts aimed at intensifying the arms race or stepping up military confrontation." This unanimously expressed will is acquiring particularly topical political significance in our times.

Communists are not only coming out "against." They are also coming out "for." This "for" was expressed in an appeal from the Berlin conference to the broadest sections of the population to work to achieve the goals set out in its comprehensive program. Much of it is devoted to specific disarmament proposals.

Reading through them attentively, you can see that as a result of various initiatives virtually all the proposals are now the subject of extensive international discussion, including discussion at the special session of the UN General Assembly. This demonstrates that the communists of Europe have expressed promptly and precisely the requirements and interests of the peoples, broad democratic movements and many millions of people who adhere to various ideological, political and religious views.

Stressing their "willingness to contribute to equal cooperation with all democratic forces, particularly the socialist and social democratic parties, in the struggle for peace, democracy and the progress of society," the communists expressed themsevles in favor of eliminating distrust and established prejudices.

Guided by these provisions, the CPSU specifically adopted the proposal of the Socialist International and sent a representative, B.N. Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the Socialist International conference at Helsinki 24-26 April. At the conference, which was devoted to the problem of disarmament, the CPSU approach to the question on the agenda was set out in detail.

On behalf of the CPSU, specific proposals were submitted to the Socialist International and the parties belonging to it on developing contacts and cooperation with them in disarmament. At the same time it was stated that the CPSU is ready to discuss any counter-initiatives in a benevolent and constructive spirit. If this appeal finds the proper practical response it will undoubtedly serve the development of contacts among various streams within the workers movement and contribute to strengthening mutual understanding among peoples.

The participants in the Berlin conference stated that, favoring as they do a Europe of peace, cooperation and social progress, to that end "they will develop their comradely, voluntary internationalist cooperation and solidarity on the basis of the great ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin with strict observance of the equality and sovereign independence of each party, noninterference in internal affairs and respect for the freedom to choose various paths in the struggle for progressive social transformations and socialism." In the past 2 years many different events have taken place, proving that such cooperation is a practical necessity dictated by specific circumstances of the present stage of world development and the general interests of various detachments of the workers movement.

The Berlin conference sketched out a broad political platform of cooperation among the communist and workers parties of Europe. Active struggle to implement its goals will to a great extent predetermine the fate of detente.

Each party's activity is defined by its particular responsibility before its working class and people in close conjunction with the mutual solidarity of working people of all countries and progressive movements and peoples in the struggle for freedom and the strengthening of independence, as well as democracy, socialism and peace.

The future of detente is not predetermined by fate. The purposefulness of the communist and workers parties of the European countries and the combination of their activity with the activity of other democratic and peace-loving forces have played a tremendous role in the political intiatives which have made possible the turn toward European detente. The future of detente depends not only on correct and skillful diplomacy. The actions of the working class and broad masses of working people are a major significance.

We would recall that almost 1 year ago 28 communist and workers parties of Europe, the United States and Canada made a joint appeal against the neutron bomb. It expressed what was maturing in other social circles, far-removed from and even hostile to the communists on other questions. The mass movement against the neutron bomb acquired unprecedentedly broad scope. It retains its important significance.

It could be said that the work of communist conferences does not end but begins with their staging. This is the work of implementing their conclusions, right up to the time when new conditions cease to set new tasks.

Speaking at this particular conference, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stated that the CPSU regards the document adopted "as obliging our party to wage an energetic and persistent struggle to achieve the goals set collectively by the European communists." This is precisely how our party approaches this question today, at an extremely crucial moment in the world situation.

CEMA STATES TAKE NEW STEPS IN DEVELOPING COOPERATION

LD051523Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0732 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 5 July--TASS commentator Ilya Maslennikov writes:

The socialist CEMA member countries have taken a new step in developing their many-sided cooperation. At the 32d CEMA session at the end of June in Bucharest the heads of government of the socialist community states approved three long-term target programs for cooperation, representing a harmonized strategy of the CEMA countries in a long-term perspective. They have been drafted in accordance with the integrated program of socialist economic integration and are a concretization of it.

The need to compile these programs was first explained as a task of great political importance by Leonid Brezhnev , general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in his report to the 25th CPSU Congress.

The standing commissions and other CEMA organs have done a great deal of work on compiling target cooperation plans, which are a new stage in strengthening the material base of the socialist community.

The long-term target program for cooperation in the field of power, fuel and raw materials adopted in Bucharest provides primarily for the accelerated development of nuclear power engineering, expansion of extraction of resources of hard fuels, expansion of power grids, more processing of oil and gas and the creation of new production capacities in these economic fields.

Special attention was devoted to the resolution of power problems. Building on CEMA countries' territory is planned for nuclear power stations with a total capacity of about 37 million kilowatts. Also, another two stations of 4 million kilowatt capacity each are to be built in the USSR, with their power going to the fraternal countries.

Intensive development of the production of grain, stockbreeding produce and other basic agricultural produce, and also improvement of the fodder base, is foreseen by the CEMA countries' target program for cooperation in the field of agriculture and the food industry. The program provides for the implementation of a complex of measures in mechanization and chemicalization of agricultural production and strengthening the material-technical base of the food industry.

The third target program approved by the heads of state concerns cooperation in machine-building. It is directed towards insuring high rates of production of high-quality equipment for various areas of modern industry and agriculture and deepening specialization and cooperation in production.

In approving the long-term target program for cooperation, the Bucharest CEMA session has made a big contribution to the implementation of the decisions of the fraternal communist and workers parties of the countries of the socialist community and of agreements between their leaders.

VIETNAM ENTRY INTO CEMA HELPS ASSURE SOCIALIST SUCCESS

LD031848Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1002 GMT 3 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 3 June--TASS commentator Anatoliy Volodin reports:

An event has taken place in the life of the CEMA which has great meaning not only for this organization, but for the world socialist system as well: At the 32d CEMA session, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV]--the dependable outpost of peace and socialism in Southeast Asia--was unanimously accepted into the organization.

The entry of Socialist Vietnam into CEMA is an important landmark in the further development and strengthening of fraternal friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the countries of the socialist community and the SRV. This friendship and cooperation has been tested by time; it was forged in the years of the Vietnamese people's heroic struggle against imperialist aggression, for the independence and unity of the homeland. The unshakeable friendship between the socialist community countries and the SRV acquired new depths after the Vietnamese people's historic victory in 1975 and the unification of Vietnam into a single state, after which it declared its determination to unswervingly follow the path of socialist development.

At present, the fraternal socialist countries are making an active international contribution toward the solution--by the working people of Vietnam--of key problems posed by the 14th Congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party and render effective aid and support in rebuilding the economy as fast as possible and creating the material and technical base for socialism in Vietnam. The current cooperation between our parties, states and peoples is aimed at this.

Vietnam and the fraternal socialist countries acquired considerable experience bilateral and multilateral economic and scientific-technical cooperation. The socialist CEMA member-countries occupy a leading place in the SRV's foreign economic links. Thus the trade turnover between the Soviet Union and Vietnam constituted over R400 million in 1977 and was the highest in all the years of Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation.

The fraternal CEMA member-countries are increasing their supply of machinery and instruments to Vietnam, as well as agricultural technology and construction equipment, wood products and consumer goods--everything necessary for the implementation of the plans of the Vietnamese Communist Party for the industrialization of the country, the development of its agriculture and the gradual improvement of the working peoples' material well-being. In turn, Vietnam is increasing its supply of industrial and agricultural products to the CEMA member countries.

By way of credits and free aid, the CEMA member countries grant technical assistance to Vietnam in the building of many modern engineering and mining enterprises, power projects and chemical enterprises. Soviet specialists are assisting in the building of hydrocomplex on the Black River, and GDR architects are taking part in building the new town of (Vinh Gia).

Working shoulder to shoulder with Vietnamese workers on the building sites are representatives from Cuba and Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland, Czechoslovakia and Mongolia. The fraternal CEMA member countries assist Vietnam in the training of highly qualified national cadres.

A clear example of the effectiveness of cooperation between the SRV and the socialist countries on a multilateral basis is the commissioning, in record time, of the trans-Vietnam Unity Railroad, linking the SRV capital Hanoi with Ho Chi Minh City. A certain amount of experience has also been gained in the coordination of economic plans and Vietnam's cooperation with CEMA organizations such as the International Bank for Economic Cooperation and the International Investment Bank.

The entry of Socialist Vietnam into CEMA opens up a new era in the comprehensive cooperation of this country with the fraternal socialist states. The SRV's participation in the work of CEMA as a full member will undoubtedly assist the further improvement of the purposefulness, efficiency, coordination and integration of economic and scientific-technical links between the fraternal socialist countries and Vietnam, the expansion of the international socialist labor sector and, in the final analysis, will further the cohesion and unity of the world system of socialism.

Under conditions in which the Vietnamese people are having to bear heavy pressure from Peking and are being subjected to attacks and blackmail from those quarters, the decision of CEMA to accept Socialist Vietnam into its ranks once again demonstrates convincingly that the fraternal socialist countries are the loyal and dependable friends of Vietnam. As Leonid Ilich Brezhnev stressed recently: "We were, are and will always be with Vietnam. Our common cause--the cause of lasting peace, peoples' independence and social progress--correspond to the vital interests of thousands of millions of people on earth."

DOMOGATSKIKH VIEWS CEMA, UN, MBFR SESSIONS, RHODESIA

LD031603Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jul 78 p 4 LD

[Mikhail Domogatskikh international review: "The International Week"]

[Text] July has now arrived. Summer is at its height. It is the time of vacations and school holidays. However, in international life there is not even a hint of any "summer vacation" fall-off in activity. Each day is marked by events of great importance.

Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, arrived in the Soviet Union on an official visit. Talks took place in the Kremlin between him and L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and also A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister.

The special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament has ended. It adopted a final document in which disarmament tasks are outlined.

The international month of solidarity with the Korean people's struggle for the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea and for the unification of the country on a peaceful democratic basis has begun.

An explosive situation still persists in the Near East. Serious events have occurred in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, where a reactionary plot has been foiled, and also in the Yemen Arab Republic.

In Colombo, an international conference "The Tasks of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Movement at the Contemporary Stage" has ended. Delegations from 40 countries of Asia, Africa, Latin American and the socialist countries, participated in it.

The Dynamism of the New World

The world of socialism is demonstrating a unity of aims, strengthening might and the majesty of its plans. The 32d CEMA session, which has just ended in Bucharest, showed the success with which the CEMA member countries are solving the tasks of socialist and communist building confronting them and the success with which they are building up their economic potential and deepening their links on a multilateral and bilateral basis for the purpose of implementing long-term targeted cooperation programs.

The national income of the CEMA member countries in 1977 increased by 12 percent compared with 1975. Industrial output increased 12.4 percent. Approximately four-fifths of this increase was the result of raising labor productivity. The total volume of foreign trade turnover increased 24 percent and now exceeds R158 billion.

Over the first 2 years of the 5-year plan, more than R3 billion of capital investment was assimilated at installations being built in accordance with the plan for multilateral integration measures for the period 1976-1980. This year the building of a unique construction project--the Soyuz gas pipeline running from Orenburg to the western border of the USSR--will be completed.

The confident, dynamic growth of the economy, the advantages of the social system of the socialist countries, and the effectiveness of their strengthening mutual cooperation stand out particularly convincingly against the background of the crisis phenomena and contradictions of the capitalist world, which are becoming more acute. The volume of industrial production in the developed capitalist countries increased 7 percent in 1977 compared with the pre-crisis year of 1973, while in the CEMA member countries it increased 32 percent.

The successes in the development of the economy, science and technology and the expansion and deepening of cooperation are strengthening the might and prestige of the community's countries in the world arena and are stepping up their influence on the course of world events.

Important documents were adopted at the session in Bucharest. Long-term targeted cooperation programs in the sphere of energy, fuel and raw materials, agriculture and the food industry and machine building were approved for the period up to 1990. Not only are these programs a new step in the development of multilateral cooperation, but they also reveal new opportunities for even better utilization of the advantages of socialism for the benefit of the peoples of the CEMA member countries.

With each passing year the cooperation of the socialist countries is growing broader and broader. The world is now witnessing unprecedented spaceflight experiments by international crews. Quite recently we feted the first Czechoslovak cosmonaut. And now, at a time when the birth of the 35-millionth inhabitant is being celebrated in Poland, one of the citizens of the Polish People's Republic--Miroslaw Hermaszewski--has set off on a space journey and and is working successfully on board a Soyuz-Salyut complex. The session's participants assessed the flight as an outstanding achievement of the socialist countries in peaceful space research.

The unanimous admission of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] to CEMA was a great event in the session in Bucharest. This happened on the eve of the second anniversary of the proclamation of the SRV.

The formation of a united Socialist Vietnam marked the completion of a 30-year struggle involving unprecedented strain and sacrifices by the heroic people on whose side the countries of the socialist community and the world's progressive forces always stood. The past years have been filled with the people's glorious deeds in creating the economic foundation of socialism, in effecting socioeconomic transformations in the southern part of the country, and in improving the people's living standard. The main event of these 2 years was the Fourth Communist Party of Vietnam Congress, which adopted a program for the republic's energetic and confident advance along the path of peaceful socialist building.

Fraternal, time-tested friendship links the peoples of Vietnam and the Soviet Union. Formed during the years of Vietnam's heroic struggle against foreign intervention, this friendship is now acquiring new forms and a new depth under the conditions of peaceful socialist building in a united, free Vietnam. Soviet people are solidly behind the courageous Vietnamese people, who are now having to experience gross, unjust pressure from Peking. The USSR will continue to resolutely support fraternal Vietnam's efforts aimed at building a new society, at improving the people's living conditions, at defending its sovereign rights and consolidating its international positions. The SRV is a reliable outpost of socialism in Southeast Asia.

"We have been, are, and will continue to be with Vietnam," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev stated recently. "Our common cause is the cause of lasting peace, the peoples' independence and social progress, and it accords with the vital interests of billions of people in the world."

Vietnam's admission to CEMA attests to the continuing rallying of the countries of world socialism under the banner of Lenin's ideas. It also attests to these countries' friendship and fraternal solidarity with socialist Vietnam, which will become even firmer and stronger.

In consolidating their economic might, developing science and culture and improving their peoples' living standard, the countries of the socialist community are acting energetically in the struggle for peace and the peoples' security. The socialist states' joint and individual initiatives aimed at the intensification and materialization of international detente, the halting of the arms race and the transition to specific disarmament measures promote the securing of lasting peace on earth.

Destiny of Detente

The name of the capital of Soviet Belorussia--Minsk--is constantly in the world press these days. From the hero-city which accomplished an unrivalled feat during the Great Patriotic War there resounded, in Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speech, an appeal to spare no efforts to consolidate peace and prevent the threat of war. "L.I. Brezhnev's speech in Minsk," an official spokesman of the UN secretary general stated, "has great international significance. L.I. Brezhnev has confirmed once again the persistent and consistent nature of the struggle the Soviet Union is waging for peace and the prevention of the conflagration of a new world war."

The program advanced by the Soviet Union for the total halting of the further qualitative and quantitative buildup of the armaments and armed forces of the states with a major military potential met with widespread approval at the UN General Assembly session on disarmament, which has just ended. This was the first time in UN history that such a forum had assembled to discuss a burning problem of the present day. For 5 weeks representatives of 149 states discussed the questions of how to curb the arms race and eliminate the threat of world war.

The comprehensive disarmament program submitted by the Soviet Union was the center of attention for the session participants. It encountered the support of the world public, which understands that ending the arms race means not only improving the political climate and removing the danger of world war but also releasing colossal funds for economic development and enhancing the peoples' well-being. It is hard even to imagine the scale that the arms race has assumed, if you consider the fact that it devours more than $1 billion every day. The Soviet Union's specific proposals are in the interests of all states--large and small--and call for responsibility for the future of all peoples.

In Vienna, the socialist countries have taken an important new step to break the deadlock at the talks being held there on the reduction of arms and armed forces in central Europe. The new initiative and the businesslike proposals submitted there have created a basis for an agreement. The reaching of an understanding in Vienna would make it possible to proceed subsequently to discussing other specific questions of military detente in Europe. It is now up to the West, which must proceed from talks on disarmament to specific steps in this direction.

U.S. President J. Carter also spoke of his desire to proceed toward detente and disarmament at a press conference. "We want," he declared, "to achieve a friendly movement from which both our countries can benefit. We are prepared to conduct competition of a peaceful nature with the Russians." As U.S. commentators point out, these words were not uttered by chance. They were addressed to the U.S. public, which is concerned over the fact that the Soviet-U.S. SALT talks have recently come to a halt because of the influence of certain forces in the United States and that the United States has begun to exacerbate relations with the Soviet Union and started stirring up the arms race.

Much alarming news is coming from the United States these days. The Washington POST reports that, despite the decision to defer production of neutron weapons, this question is once again being debated in administration circles, and the possible "difficult decision on the production of neutron warheads," as certain legislators opposed to the new generation of nuclear weapons indicate, will be secret. According to other reports, the United States intends to increase its military arsenals in West Europe. This comes at a time when the talks on the reduction of arms and armed forces are being held in Vienna!

Of course, the voicing of good intentions is significant. However, good words alone in favor of detente and ending the arms race are not enough. What is needed is concrete deeds, which are awaited from the Washington administration by both the U.S. and the world public.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, there will be no hindrance on its part. It is always prepared to take any steps which would result in a lessening of tension, the strengthening of peace and the elimination of the threat of war and insure mankind clear skies overhead.

The Rhodesia Knot

Many recent events confirm that the imperialist states, led by the United States, are mounting an offensive against the national liberation forces in Africa. As a recent Soviet Government statement noted, the colonizers want to again impose their diktat on the African peoples, although it is obviously a lost cause.

The same hand of the neocolonialists striving, come what may, to retain their positions in Africa is obvious in the approach to the "Rhodesia problem." For almost 15 years now Ian Smith's racist regime has opposed the transfer of power to the African majority. It may be said with all certainty that this anachronism on the African Continent could not have kept its head above water for long without the help of the imperialist countries.

The Zimbabwe Patriotic Front is leading the people in a decisive attack on the racist regime. The scale of the national liberation struggle and the real threat to Smith's regime have frightened the Western countries, especially Britain and the United States. They are feverishly searching for ways in which it would be possible to pull Smith's regime from under the hammer and weaken the scale of the patriots' armed struggle. To precisely this end Britain and the United States put forward a proposal for holding a "general peace conference", whose aim is to persuade the Africans to capitulate to the white racists. They propose creating a transitional administration led by a British resident but without dissolving Smith's racist army, for 6 months. In these 6 months, its patrons assure us, it is possible to create conditions for holding "free elections" which will decide the path which the country is to take.

But these proposals also play into the hands of the racists and allow them to play for time. In the meantime Smith, having concluded an agreement with several African puppets on the so-called "internal settlement," is trying to strengthen his positions. The Rhodesian "parliament" has extended for another year the state of emergency, which has already existed for 12 years. The regime wants to use harsh measures to suppress the liberation struggle of the people and to facilitate favorable election results. The Anglo-American plan for the "solution" of the Rhodesian problem corresponds exactly with this.

"The imperialists want us," Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front stated, "to agree to a transitional period, which would give Britain absolute power in the country for 6 months. But give the imperialist 6 minutes and they will rob you of everything you thought you had won."

The Rhodesia problem, indeed the entire liberation problem in the south of Africa, can and will be solved. But it will not be solved as a result of the neocolonialist maneuvers of the imperialists and racists, but by the African peoples themselves, rising to the decisive struggle for true freedom and independence and for the destruction of the vestiges of colonialism on this continent.

The international situation today is acute and complex. Dangerous hotbeds of tension exist in a number of regions. The peoples are intensifying their struggle for peace and universal security. The countries of socialism and all progressive forces are in its vanguard. They do not want and will not allow the fire of war to again embrace the world with its flame. They are prepared to do everything to insure that peace on earth is stable and lasting.

VESNIN CALLS FOR EXPOSURE OF 'LIE ABOUT SOCIALISM'

LD3011147Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 26, 23 Jun 78 PP 14-15 LD

[Boris Vesnin article: "A Hackneyed But Dangerous Lie"]

[Excerpts] Where lies the main source of danger to the contemporary world? Who creates the hotbeds of tension which may become hotbeds of military conflict? Who is whipping up the arms race? Who is causing unstable situations in the countries of the capitalist world? Who is threatening the freedom of Africa's peoples?

The Western capitals, primarily Washington, give the same answer to all these questions: Moscow is to blame for everything, they say. The "hand of Moscow"--that is the source of the evil; that is the danger--visible in some places, invisible in others--which hangs over mankind...

When you hear all this you marvel. Why are they not tired of repeating the same old lie after 60 years? Indeed, mention was first made of the "hand of Moscow" immediately after the victory of October. Any difficulties of the capitalist world, any failures of the ruling circles of Western countries and any economic, social and political unheavals were explained by the intrigues of this "hand"...

Even back then the glaring absurdity of devices of this kind was obvious to any sober-minded person.

In actual fact "Moscow" was accused of being the source of working class "disturbances" and the source of all "sedition" in the capitalist states. But of course, they "neglected" to recall that labor started its actions against capital many decades before Red Moscow appeared on the map of the world. They "forgot" that it is not some kind of mythical external intrigues but actual capitalist reality, real class oppression and ruthless exploitation which engendered and continue to engender "disturbances" and which force the proletarians and all the working people to struggle for their rights.

"Moscow" was also accused of kindling "mutinies" in the colonies. Here too, of course, an elementary fact was forgotten--the fact that "mutinies" of this kind began long before the appearance of Soviet Russia. And this is perfectly natural since these "mutinies" were the answer of Asian, African and Latin American peoples to the brutal colonial oppression and the bloody "exploits" of the imperialist conquistadores.

"Moscow" was also accused of nurturing plans for aggression against the so-called "free world." But in the last 60 years the Soviet Union has unleashed no aggression. [paragraph continues]

On the other hand, during this period, it has itself been subjected to both direct aggression and threats of aggression--and this from precisely those states whose governments are now making all these absurd accusations against it.

So the question arises: Just who is to blame for the difficulties which mankind today is experiencing? Just whose hand engenders the dangers for the contemporary world, including the most serious of them--the danger of another war?

No, it is not the "hand of Moscow" but the brutish paw of imperialist reaction and the talons of the "hawks" of the modern capitalist world--that is who creates the real threats to mankind. That is who is casting doubt on detente. That is who is shedding torrents of blood in countries whose only fault is that they want to be free.

Of course, everything will eventually fall into place. The organizers of the attacks on universal peace will, of course, be defeated. But in order for this to be accomplished, there is one sine qua non: It is essential that the peoples and the public of all countries learn the truth about whose hand is threatening peace. It is essential that people learn to recognize, behind the screen of anticommunist slogans, the real culprits for the arms race and the real danger which they create for the peoples of the world.

It is part of the general struggle for peace and social progress to expose the lie regarding the threat from socialism and to reveal the truth about today's "exploits" of imperialism. It is part of the common cause of all peace-loving forces. It is the duty of every honest man.

ECOSOC SESSION OPENS IN GENEVA, TO DISCUSS APARTHEID

LD051944Y Moscow TASS in English 1922 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, July 5, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Lopatin, reports: The scheduled session of the UN Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) has opened in the Geneva Palace of Nations today.

A considerable place among the topical political, economic and social questions is held at the session by the question of the situation of the developing states and the problems of combatting difficulties in the way of their independent development.

On the insistence of the socialist and developing countries, Ecosoc will discuss the apartheid policies pursued by the white minority regimes in the south of Africa. In the draft resolution on this question, Ecosoc urges all states of the world to take legislative, administrative and other measures against the companies and firms in their territory with the aim of putting an ultimate end to their activity in the south of Africa. The document also contains a plea to the states for ending the supplies of oil and other strategic materials to the racialist regimes in that area, for banning technical aid, the granting of loans to them, etc. In a word, not to admit any activity that would directly or indirectly contribute to a strengthening of their military potential.

The official opening of the session was today addressed by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

TEXT OF BREZHNEV 4 JULY GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT CARTER

LD051215Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jul 78 p 5 LD

[Text] To his excellency Mr James E. Carter, President of the United States

Esteemed Mr President,

On the U.S. national holiday--Independence Day--accept my congratulations and best wishes to the American people and you yourself.

I want to express the hope that the development of relations between the USSR and the United States will travel a constructive path in the interests of peace and mutually advantageous cooperation.

[Signed] L. Brezhnev.

ARBATOV COMMENTS ON MYTHICAL SOVIET MILITARY SUPERIORITY

LD051136Y Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Dr Georgiy Arbatov, director of the Institute of USA and Canada Studies, comments on arguments against normalizing Soviet-American relations: [begin recording in Russian fading into English translation]

Those who are for a tougher policy in the United States towards the Soviet Union and against the principles of relaxation of tension cannot come out with these positions so boldly, because they would not be met with general approval either in the United States or in the world as a whole. Therefore, all their efforts are accompanied by a stepped up propaganda campaign to influence public opinion.

The opponents of relaxing tension have not come up with anything new in this campaign. They use the same arguments that have been used in the past few decades. The current campaign, however, has worked especially hard on two points: One is the myth about a Soviet military threat and the other is the claim of Soviet-Cuban interference in Africa. In this commentary I would like to deal with the claim that the Soviet Union poses a military threat and that it is increasing its armed forces beyond the realm of legitimate defense needs and therefore cannot help but be a threat to the West.

First of all the arguments about what defense needs are legitimate in another country are dubious. No country has the moral or political right to determine what another country's defense needs really are. Each country must do this for itself. The Soviet Union is forced to think seriously about its security and defense in order to meet the challenge by the military potential of the United States and Western Europe and the military potential of China. This is not even to mention the smaller countries like Iran. This country, bordering the Soviet Union, has been receiving a tremendous amount of American arms, and these arms are the latest weapons. It would be interesting to see how those who criticize the Soviet Union would talk about legitimate defense needs if they were in this country's position.

But such an approach is basically incorrect. American opponents of relaxing tension talk about Soviet military superiority, although this country is not aiming for this at all. In President Brezhnev's recent speech he clearly said that his country is not trying to gain military superiority; on the contrary it feels that a military balance should be based on parity. Furthermore, the Soviet Union realizes that in view of the huge number of powerful weapons in the world it is hopeless to try to gain military superiority.

A serious look at the matter would require disregarding the paranoid articles and statements by people or the various committees for the so-called present danger and similar organizations. Instead it is necessary to look at official documents because none of them raise the question of Soviet military superiority. Directly or indirectly they recognize relative parity. This is hard to dispute since it is a reality. Sometimes this fact is even stated by officials who are apparently not concerned by a mythical Soviet superiority. They simply do not want to agree with the idea of parity. They have to admit that at present the Soviet Union does not have military superiority but are worried about the situation tomorrow. Such ideas for instance were stated by President Carter and Defense Secretary Brown and other officials at the recent meeting of the NATO Council.

So the American leaders believe it is necessary today to adopt new military programs and to increase military spending. This viewpoint is extremely dangerous, because this kind of logic has always been behind the arms race. Such thinking will keep the arms race going for ever, and besides, the Soviet Union has as much reason to be worried about tomorrow too. If there is a real concern about tomorrow, there is always an opportunity to hold talks and to conclude arms limitation agreements to stop the arms race. Talks and agreements remove the fear of tomorrow.

Of course the current agreements do not cover all spheres, but the Soviet Union has stated on many occasions its willingness to talk about all spheres. Just recently Leonid Brezhnev again said that the Soviet Union is ready to discuss banning and doing away with any weapons system but only on the basis of equal security. As far as talks are concerned, and they best show up the participants' real intentions, the positions of the Western side are becoming more and more dubious.

Let's take a look at Europe for example. On 19 April at the talks on reducing arms and armed forces in central Europe, the West put forward a new proposal. The member nations of the Warsaw agreement called this proposal a step forward, although a small and limited one, and they say they will make a counterproposal. But the West is not interested in this in the least. It immediately started a campaign against the socialist countries, and at the main meeting of the NATO Council, without even bothering to wait for the counterproposal by the Warsaw Treaty nations, a new arms program was adopted. Our proposals were made on 8th June; it is not only our opinion but also the opinion of many objective Western observers that these proposals signify a big advance and make possible a serious breakthrough and a successful conclusion to the talks. To me it's clear that it is very hard to conduct talks when, without waiting for expected counterproposals, decisions of an opposite nature are made. This is what has been happening to one degree or another at all talks underway.

Let's take a look at the talks on limiting strategic arms for example. Since October, when a new positive step was taken, the Soviet Union has been making more and more proposals in an attempt to bring the two positions closer together and to find a way out of the difficulties, in order to come to some mutually acceptable compromise solutions. The West has not answered these proposals, and when it has remarked on some of the proposals, the comments concerned were more like ultimatums. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union will continue to wait for a more sober approach to its proposals.

This is mainly what I wanted to say about the myth of a Soviet military threat, and this myth is really being blown up energetically. It is amazing that no matter how many times in the past few decades all these arguments have been proved unfounded they continue anyway to be used. [end recording]

CONGRESSMEN EXPRESS DESIRE FOR NEW SALT AGREEMENT

LD011246Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0857 GMT 1 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Washington-TASS correspondent Boris Ivanov reports: More and more American legislators are publicly voicing support for strengthening the process of detente, a curb on the arms race and the conclusion of a new Soviet-American agreement on limitation of strategic offensive weapons (SALT).

Despite the serious differences existing between the United States and the USSR, we have one common aim, to preserve peace on earth and limit the dangerous arms race, said Representative P. Simon, in an interview with a TASS correspondent. In this respect the current Soviet-American SALT talks are of great significance. Their successful conclusion would substantially improve the international political atmosphere and reduce the danger of a new nuclear war, the congressman pointed out. He stressed that the new SALT agreement will answer the fundamental interests of both states. Because of this it is necessary to apply maximum efforts toward achieving progress at the talks and the speediest conclusion of an agreement.

Contemporary international life demands effective measures for limiting the arms race and disarmament, pointed out Congressman B. Carr. The conclusion of a new Soviet-American SALT agreement will also be of great significance for establishing control over research and deployment of new types of nuclear weapons.

Practical steps by both countries in limiting the growth in their nuclear arsenals has the approval of wide sections of the world public, inasmuch as it sees in them the implementation of concrete measures on disarmament and the insuring of world stability and security, the congressman stressed.

In the opinion of Senator M. Gravel, limitation of strategic offensive weapons, the ban on research and production of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction, a total ban on all tests of nuclear weapons are the most urgent tasks now facing the governments of the two countries. A timely and effective solution of these vital problems would constitute in itself an important stage in curbing the arms race and would have a favorable effect on the process of deepening mutual understanding between the peoples of both states, the senator stressed.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE EXAMINES SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS

LD010920Y Moscow TASS in English 0806 GMT 1 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Washington, July 1, TASS--A conference on the present state and prospects of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union was held in Racine (Wisconsin). It was sponsored by the U.S. State Department and the Institute of International Problems of the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Information reports at the conference were made by leading officials of the State Department, the Defence Department and the Disarmament and Arms Control Agency. The conference was attended by representatives of various sections of American society, including leaders of public organizations, businessmen, members of state legislatures, scientists and pressmen.

Opening the conference Dr Carol Bauman, sponsor of the conference, and director of the Institute of International Problems, said that the aim of this seminar is to give Americans a broader view of the problems of relations between the USSR and the USA and of the need for an earliest conclusion of the strategic arms limitation agreement between the two countries.

U.S. SCIENTIFIC DELEGATION PART OF 'CHINESE CARD' GAMBLE

LD051340Y Moscow TASS in English 1308 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Washington, July 5, TASS--An American Government delegation, headed by Frank Press, the U.S. President's science and technology adviser, has left for China. It includes heads and representatives of the management of principal U.S. scientific and technological institutions. The newspaper Washington POST notes that this is an "extraordinary" delegation constituting the most impressive group of high-placed scientists Washington had ever sent abroad.

The trip, it is pointed out by the press, was planned during the recent visit to the PRC of Z. Brzezinski, the President's national security assistant, who discussed with Peking leaders the possibility of China purchasing military equipment. The New York TIMES recalls in this connection of the plans to sell Peking certain types of equipment, including electronics, which could be used for military purposes.

In other words, under the pretext of "scientific" contacts, attempts are being made to give Peking access to Western technology, including military technology, exactly at the time when it is striving to modernize its armed forces

Noteworthy is the fact that a delegation of U.S. congressmen went to China before that, which, as announced in Washington, would visit a stretch of the Soviet-Chinese border after talks in Peking with "high-placed Chinese officials".

The point in question, therefore, is to expand American-Chinese relations on an anti-Soviet basis, to use the "Chinese card" in the global gamble against the Soviet Union. The shortsightedness of such actions, their dangerous character for the cause of peace and for the national interests of the United States properly alarm many realistically-minded Americans, who realize that China is carrying on its own game, is pursuing expansionist goals. The noted American political analyst Joseph Kraft urges Washington not to add grist to the mill of the Chinese, who are insisting that all the countries should come out jointly with them against the Russians. The "Chinese card", he warns, must not be used against the Soviet Union. Attempts to play the "Chinese card", in the opinion of the New York TIMES, will rather complicate the relations with Moscow, and in a way that will by no means promote the American interests.

CARTER ADMINISTRATION ACCUSED OF DUPLICITY IN ARMS SALES

LD012211Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1310 GMT 1 Jul 78 LD

["A Symbol of Friendship Which Serves Killing"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--TASS observer Askold Biryukov writes: Under cover of a discussion of the problem of limiting the international trade in arms and despite official assurances, the United States is increasing its arms sales abroad.

In 1976 when the presidential campaign was in full swing, the Democratic Party proposed a reduction in the volume of American arms sales abroad as one of the substantial planks of its platform.

Hardly anyone will dare deny the urgency of the problem of limiting the international arms trade and the supplies of conventional armaments and its importance to the struggle for the relaxation of tension and the strengthening of international peace.

Facts show, however, that although the present U.S. administration has been in power more than 15 months, the sinister export of arms from this country is increasing. Suffice it to say that in the present fiscal year the United States will ship armaments abroad worth from $13.2 to $13.5 billion, $2 billion more than it did last year.

The latest annual report of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency confirms that arms deliveries are putting "a heavy burden on the world economy, particularly the economies of the developing countries." But it is known that at the present time, unlike the recent past when the chief recipients of American arms were Washington's traditional allies, up to 60 percent of the military supplies are going to third world countries.

The report further notes that such a policy "not only does not promote an increase in global security but rather increases the probability of local conflicts, which in turn might escalate into large-scale wars." Nevertheless, in pursuit of its strategic and economic interests, the United States is saturating with arms virtually all the explosive spots in the world, thereby promoting "local conflicts" which might escalate into a big war.

Surely this is confirmed by the fact that more than half of the Pentagon's military supplies are being sent to the Near East and to the Persian Gulf countries. The $7 billion worth of arms supplied to Israel in the years 1962-1977 have been fueling Israel's continuing aggression in the Near East. This year Israel has been promised deliveries valued at a further $1.8 billion. During the same period, deliveries valued at $8.2 billion went to the Seoul regime, which is constantly intensifying tension on the Korean Peninsula. The lion's share of military supplies in Africa in 1977--$30.4 million--was received by Zaire, from whose territory there are unceasing armed forays against the People's Republic of Angola.

African countries are alarmed by the United States' intention to supply arms to Somalia. The Kenyan newspaper WEEKLY REVIEW noted that American arms supplies to Somalia will soon find their way to the Ogaden, or will be used to carry out other aggressive schemes of the Somalia leadership.

The abovementioned report of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency says that the United States "will not be the first to supply a region with the latest arms systems, which will permit the countries in that region to acquire new military potential." But one wonders how to describe the weapons like the F-15 fighter aircraft supplied to Israel last year, which were used by Israel during its recent aggression against Lebanon. How is this promise compatible with the equipping of the Iranian Armed Forces with F-14 and F-16 fighter aircraft? And finally, how is one to understand the decision adopted by the U.S. Government in February this year to deliver 90 of the latest F-16 and F-15 fighters to Israel and 110 supersonic engines worth $4.8 billion to Saudi Arabia and Egypt?

William Proxmire, the Democratic Senator from Wisconsin, described this decision as a "threat to peace and the military balance in the Near East." "We must show courage," he stated, "by forbidding these deliveries and forcing our country to refrain from the bad habit of selling arms, which they would like to represent as a symbol of friendship when in fact it serves only one purpose--murder."

The facts that have been cited, and the list could be extended, prove, to say the least, the dual nature of the United States' policy of "restraint" in international trade and arms deliveries. The United States, being the biggest arms supplier, is clearly not even adhering to those limitations which the Carter administration itself is supporting so fervently.

VATCHENKO ATTENDS U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION IN MOSCOW

LD042337Y Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 4 Jul 78 LD

[Text] On Tuesday the American ambassador in the USSR, Malcolm Toon, gave a reception on the national holiday of his country, Independence Day. The reception was attended by Soviet Vice President Vatchenko, the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Novikov, by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Secretary Georgadze, and by cabinet ministers and other Soviet officials. Among the guests were also heads of foreign diplomatic missions accredited in the Soviet Union.

On the day of the 202nd anniversary of the proclamation of independence in the United States the American ambassador in Moscow, Malcolm Toon, appeared in a peak hour news program on Soviet Television. He said in part that at present the United States and the Soviet Union are conducting talks about a new SALT agreement. The purpose of the talks is to ensure lasting peace not only for the American and Soviet peoples but for the entire world. The American ambassador added that by expanding contacts and exchanges the differences between the two countries can be narrowed down and it is possible to limit zones of competition and [increase] spheres of cooperation between them. In this Malcolm Toon saw the common objective of the two countries.

SOVIET TU LEADER COMMENTS ON VISIT TO UNITED STATES

LD032331Y Moscow TASS in English 2022 GMT 3 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, July 3, TASS--"Working class America is for peace and detente, for business cooperation with the Soviet Union based on mutual benefit. We have come to believe this after visiting the USA," a TASS correspondent was told by Nikolay Simochatov, chairman of the Central Committee of the Power Stations and Electrical-Engineering Industry Workers' Union.

He led the first official delegation of an industrial trade union from the USSR to the USA. This became possible, Simochatov noted, after the American authorities, under public pressure last year, dropped their discriminatory practices regarding the granting of entry visas to Soviet trade union representatives.

The delegation was invited by the United Electrical and Machine Workers' Union of America, whose representatives visited the Soviet Union twice--in 1972 and 1977.

During its ten-day stay the delegation visited a number of engineering plants, including such major works as General Electric at Erie and Westinghouse in Philadelphia. "Members of the management at these enterprises," the head of the delegation said, "regarding our visit favourably, making clear their interest in further Soviet orders, which help to solve the employment problem and expressed regrets that the scope of bilateral trade is still behind the potentialities."

Workers at American enterprises and trade union activists manifested sincere interest in the Soviet workers' delegation, Simochatov said. At meetings, which attracted large audiences, we were asked many questions about the social gains of Soviet people, about labour protection in industry, medical services, pensioning. American trade unionists expressed the wish for more frequent meetings in order to know each other better.

The idea of exchanging delegations of workers of related enterprises aroused special interest, Simochatov said. I hope it will be possible to implement it in the near future.

BLACKMAIL, PROVOCATIONS CHARACTERIZE PRC CONDUCT TOWARD SRV

LD051136Y Moscow TASS in English 1110 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

["Peking: On the Road of Provocations and Blackmail"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, July 5, TASS--TASS political analyst Mikhail Yakovlev writes:

As reported by the HSINHUA [NCNA] news service, Peking has decided to "stop economic and technical assistance to Vietnam and to recall the Chinese engineering and technical personnel from Vietnam".

Peking's decision to discontinue all economic assistance to Vietnam and to recall Chinese technical specialists from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, [SRV], as well as the unilateral abrogation of several agreements signed by the governments of the two countries, is fresh proof of Peking's course aimed at complicating the liquidation of the economic consequencesof U.S. aggression and derange peaceful socialist construction.

This is one of the links of the campaign of outright pressure, black mail and provocations unleashed by the Chinese leaders against the SRV.

A vehement anti-Vietnamese campaign is continuing unabated in China for the third month now under the obviously false Peking-fabricated pretext of "defending" Chinese nationals residing in the SRV, who are allegedly being "victimized" by the authorities. Distorting the actual situation, Maoist propaganda is slandering the policy of the Communist Party and Government of Vietnam, is striving to arouse feelings of unfriendliness and hostility towards the heroic Vietnamese people among the population of China.

At the same time the Peking leaders are stepping up provocations on the Chinese-Vietnamese border. Peking actually supports the aggressive frontier war aginst Vietnam, unleashed at the end of last year by Kampuchea. As reported by foreign news services, Kampuchean soldiers are provided with Chinese armaments, commanded by Chinese officers-instructors, who often open fire themselves on Vietnamese border units.

Outright political blackmail, economic pressure and military provocations, perpetrated by Peking vis-a-vis Vietnam, are not an accidental course. This course is a reflection of Peking's frantic hegemonism, which manifests itself ever more clearly in China's foreign policy. The reason for this hegemonic course lies in the fact that the Peking rulers are obviously irritated by the existence of a united, free and independent Vietnam, engrossed as it is in peaceful socialist construction and pursuing a policy of friendship with the socialist states. Peking does not wish to put up with the fact that the independent and sovereign Vietnam does not wish to follow inthe wake of Peking's anti-socialist policy, that it has not become and does not intend to be a vassal of the new Peking emperors. The consistent anti-imperialist course of the SRV does not suit the Peking leadership. They regard a united, independent and strong Socialist Vietnam as an obstacle to the implementation of their own plans of establishing China's domination over Southeast Asia.

The fact that Peking has chosen a socialist state as a target of its attacks confirms once again that the Maoists have betrayed Marxism-Leninism,the principles of proletarian internationalism. Everything shows that Peking has turned into a force which comes out openly against socialism and is being actively used by the imperialist circles to wage a struggle against the socialist states, against the cause of peace and progress.

The Soviet people resolutely back the efforts of the SRV to defend the inalienable rights of the Vietnamese people. "Today, when the Vietnamese people is subjected to gross and absolutely unconcealed outside pressure, to attacks and blackmail, it is pointed out in the message sent by Soviet leaders to the leaders of Vietnam in connection with the second anniversary of their republic, we again assure fraternal Vietnam of our resolute support to its efforts, aimed at building a socialist society, improving the living conditions of the people, defending the inalienable sovereign rights and strengthening the international positions of the SRV--reliable forepost of socialism in Southeast Asia. The Soviet Union has supported, supports and will always support Vietnam".

PRC ACTIONS IN SRV REVEAL HISTORIC AGGRESSIVE TREND

OW060135Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 4 Jul 78 OW

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On 3 July, China decided to terminate its assistance to Vietnam and withdraw its experts. This step taken during the difficult period of Vietnam's post-war transformation is another link in the Chinese leadership's anti-Vietnam chain. Peking has continuously increased its hostility toward Vietnam, a sovereign state, by exerting new political, military and economic pressure. Let us review the main stages of the PRC's anti-Vietnam policy. Peking compelled Kampuchea to conduct armed provocations against Vietnam, alleged that Vietnam was persecuting the Hoa people and incited a large number of Overseas Chinese to leave Vietnam. The Chinese press has unleashed a slanderous campaign against the neighboring country. China has arbitrarily [words indistinct] the SRV's territorial waters, closed the Vietnamese consulates in China and conducted large-scale military maneuvers in the waters near Vietnam's coast. At the same time, Peking has deliberately delayed the task of transporting the Overseas Chinese back to China in an attempt to find a pretext for perpetuating the tension in the relations between the two countries, which was provoked by Peking.

In a recent meeting with a Thai delegation, Teng Hsiao-ping, vice premier of the PRC State Council, said that China had already developed some measures concerning its future policy toward Vietnam. The Peking leader mentioned certain first, second and third measures to deal with Vietnam, but did not elaborate. Therefore, we may anticipate that Peking's relations with Vietnam will be handled in accordance with an already written pamphlet [Hsiao tse tzu 1420 0374 1311] and that China's interference in the SRV's internal affairs will escalate gradually. The series of anti-Vietnam actions undertaken by Peking reminds people of the U.S. imperialists' aggressive policy toward the Vietnamese people. The U.S. sanguinary policy was also carried out by stages. First, Washington published its pamphlet and then carried out the war against the Vietnamese people. China's anti-Vietnam action was also (?carefully) planned. The United States and the PRC share some common points in their aggression against Vietnam. The escalation of Peking's anti-Vietnam actions reminds people of the Cultural Revolution, during which China's foreign policy showed a distinctly aggressive nature. At that time, Peking intensified sabotage activities against a number of Southeast Asian countries, seriously damaging their national development. In the summer of 1967, the Chinese leadership provoked unrest among Overseas Chinese in Burma and subsequently unleashed a slanderous campaign against Burma. Later on, Peking sent troops to the area bordering Burma, issued a statement terminating economic assistanc to that country, and recalled its experts to China. Hence, we can see that Peking's anti-Vietnam actions are a typical example of its policy toward Southeast Asia. It is possible that China's current farce in escalating its interference in Vietnam will be restaged in some other country in the region at anytime.

U.S. SENATOR BYRD PRESSURES BELGIUM ON AWACS FUNDING

LD062038Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

["Pressure on a P··tner"--TASS headline]

[Text] Brussels, 5 July, TASS--It has become known here that during his meeting yesterday with Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans, Robert Byrd, leader of the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate, demanded that Belgium accept its share of the expense for NATO's acquisition of AWACS (the American air warning and control system). This demand is more persistent since Robert Byrd was speaking not as a member of the Senate but as the personal emissary of U.S. President James Carter, who spoke on this subject before Byrd's departure for Western Europe.

The Pentagon and the NATO military leaders have long been tying the NATO countries to this costly American system. Its purchase will cost them $2.5 billion. Belgium's share will be $60 million. The prospect of such a huge expenditure has led to understandable vacillation and doubt in many NATO countries. Fierce arguments have continued over AWACS for 3 years. Britain for example, has decided to give preference to its own Nimrod system.

However, the NATO military leaders believe that, following the adoption at the NATO Council session in Washington in May of the program for a further increase in the bloc's military might, they will succeed in obtaining final agreement to take part in meeting the cost of the AWACS project from--apart from the United States--the FRG, Canada, Belgium, Holland and some other countries.

As far as Belgium is concerned, its stand has not yet been determined. V. Vanden Boeynants, Belgian minister of national defense, said in parliament the other day that owing to its financial and economic difficulties Belgium would not be able to participate fully, as was planned, in financing NATO's AWACS project.

Prime Minister Leo Tindemanns, according to the BELGA news agency, said in reply to Robert Byrd's demand that the question of Belgium's participation in this system is being studied and a final decision has not yet been taken.

FRANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANNED AWACS SYSTEM

LD051241Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Jun 78 p 1 LD

[TASS report: "France's Plan"]

[Text] Brussels, 29 June--Speaking at a symposium in Brussels R. Komer, U.S. Defense Department adviser on NATO affairs, stated that France intends to participate in the bloc's program for the purchase of aircraft for the AWACS system. He said that France recognizes the need for an integrated air defense system.

WORK BEGINS ON MODIFICATION OF NATO SATELLITE SYSTEM

LD301427Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Jun 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Brussels, 28 June TASS--As NATO headquarters has reported, the North Atlantic bloc "has begun work on the modification and expansion of the NATO communications satellites and tracking network." The implementation of the plan has been entrusted to a subsidiary of the American Ford Motor Company. In scale and total expenditure it is NATO's biggest project.

According to the terms of the contract, the firm must carry out modification of 12 existing NATO ground stations for tracking satellites, as well as the installation of several new stations.

PRAVDA SCORES POSSIBLE OFFSHORE NEUTRON ARMS DEPLOYMENT

LD051351Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jul 78 p 5 LD

[V. Mikhaylov dispatch: "Scientists Against the Neutron Bomb"]

[Text] Bonn--The shadow of the neutron bomb is again looming over West Europe. News from the United States of fresh attempts to organize the production of neutron weapons has attracted the attention of the West German public.

"The question of the production of neutron weapons has been decided beforehand," reads a report from Washington published in the newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE. "The U.S. Congress has provided President Carter with the means to equip the modernized Lance missile with a device which, in the final analysis, turns the nuclear charge into a neutron weapon."

This decision has been perceived in the FRG as an attempt to confront West Europe with the "inevitability" of a new round of the arms race and thereby undermine the resistance of political circles which support the strengthening of international detente.

A reserve variant is being formulated in case they still fail to overcome this resistance. Specialists circles believe, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE reports, that Carter might use a form of neutron weapon deployment similar to that which was employed with respect of nuclear weapons during the Korean and Vietnam wars. At that time they were kept on aircraft carriers of the 7th Fleet stationed offshore and could have been quickly transferred to the region of military operations with the help of helicopters. In a similar way, in case of need, neutron warheads could be delivered to central Europe in a very short time for installation on the Lance missiles deployed there. In this way Washington could avoid a sharp European debate over the neutron bomb.

The plans in question are characteristic in themselves. The weapons, which are being created supposedly for the "defense of Europe", are so odious to the European peoples that they are having to be forced through in a roundabout way. However, it is doubtful that a "European debate" could be avoided in this way. For the peoples of West Europe the question is not just one of where neutron weapons will be deployed--directly on the continent or offshore. The very introduction of these weapons of mass destruction into NATO's military structure is fraught with catastrophic consequences for West Europe. This has been restated most clearly by prominent West German scientists in an appeal which has just been published.

Professor (Kh. Buttlar) G. Ewald and M. Reinhard of the University of the Ruhr at Bochum have made public an appeal prepared by the university's scientists, in which they come out against attempts to depict neutron weapons as an acceptable "means of defense." The allegation that neutron weapons are "clean" and almost "humane" is shocking, they declare.

The scientists reject the allegation that radioactivity disappears after a short while when neutron weapons are used. On the contrary, the appeal states, contamination remains for a long period.

The Bochum appeal has already been signed by more than 110 of the country's scientists. It has been handed to the FRG Government.

SA CARNEIRO'S STAND PROMPTS DEBATE AT PSD/PPD CONGRESS

LD032317Y Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 1830 GMT 3 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Looking for a way out of the impasse--these words can sum up the work of the extraordinary congress of the PSD/PPD [Social Democratic Party] of Portugal, writes Radio Moscow observer Yuriy Konstantinov.

According to observers, the main task of the congress, which is being held behind closed doors, is to overcome, or at least minimize the differences within the party, and create circumstances for the return of Sa Carneiro to the post of chairman of the PSD. Following the resignation of Mr Sa Carneiro, for not having achieved the support of the national council meeting of the PSD because of his hardline position, violent debates and discussions have taken place over Sa Carneiro.

The supporters of Sa Carneiro say that he is the magnet for the adversaries of Mario Soares' coalition government's policies, and that it is precisely Mr Sa Carneiro who [word indistinct] the total failure of confidence in the socialist leaders by the masses. It is he who will challenge the country's present leaders and who will win in the parliamentary and presidential elections.

As regards Sa Carneiro himself, he does not hide his willingness to once again take up the leadership of the party, with the one condition that his line be unconditionally supported. In his opinion, the constitution which enshrines the most important democratic gains of the Portuguese people is too leftist and so must be immediately reviewed. Sa Carneiro calls for an end to the soldier's democracy and the dismantling of the Council of the Revolution. Denying support to the president of the republic, Ramalho Eanes, Mr Sa Carneiro demands the holding of extraordinary presidential elections. At the same time he increasingly demonstrates his desire to set up an anti-communist block in the country. This position is seriously worrying those Social Democrats who upheld and uphold adherence to and the consolidation of the gains of the 25 April revolution. They draw attention to the fact that the PSD could become a sanctuary for reactionary groups from the Kaulza de Ariaga faction, who openly wants to create in the country favorable conditions for a counterrevolutionary coup. As is known it was precisely the violent turn to the right made by Sa Carneiro and his followers which caused the deep crisis in the party, which it has not yet been able to overcome to this day. The PSD is looking for a way out of the impasse. We do not wish to predict the result, but a review of the PSD's history proves that the party obtained the support and the confidence of its followers because, together with the leftwing forces, it supported and defended the democratic gains of the April revolution of 1974.

BREZHNEV CABLES PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT ON NATIONAL DAY

LD042252Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1415 GMT 4 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--Leonid Brezhnev has sent a telegram to Antonio dos Santos Ramalho Eanes, president of the Portuguese republic, in which he expresses congratulations and best wishes to the Portuguese people in connection with Portugal day.

In a reply telegram, the president of the Portuguese republic expressed deep gratitude for the congratulations.

U.S., NATO BASES IN ITALY THREATEN PEOPLE'S SECURITY

LD042323Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1612 GMT 4 Jul 78 LD

["Italy: An American Weapons Range"--TASS headline]

[Text] Rome--"An enormous aircraft carrier for the United States Armed Forces": Such is the graphic way in which Italy is described by the local press. According to information provided by the weekly PANORAMA, there are 24 United States military bases located on Italian territory. Among them are the military air bases at Aviano, Naples, Sigonella and other populated centers, more than 10 major radar complexes, weapons dumps, barracks and ranges. Naples and other Italian ports are constantly being visited by vessels of the United States Sixth Fleet, among these atomic aircraft carriers. The island of Maddalena near Sardinia is the location of a base for U.S. nuclear submarines.

According to calculations made by the Rome Institute of International Relations there are between 1,000 and 1,500 units of nuclear weapons deployed on Italian territory. There have been numerous reports in the Italian press that the atomic weapons deployed on the Appenines Peninsula are not controlled by Italian authorities. Senator Nino Pasti, who formerly held positions of command in NATO, writes in a book published here recently that the Italian authorities are unable to prevent the use of nuclear weapons and that Italy could find itself drawn into a nuclear conflict against its own will and for the sake of the defense of American interests.

Dominance of the military is creating serious problems for the local population. In areas where there are military installations, it is forbidden to build roads or industrial plants and to use the coastal regions for purposes of tourism. This is damaging the development of the economy and of agriculture. Constant incidents during maneuvers strike fear and uncertainty into the population. The newspapers have written on more than one occasion of clashes between local residents and foreign servicemen and of protest demonstrations which have taken place.

The presence of American and NATO bases on Italian territory frequently poses a direct threat to the life and safety of the local population. Last autumn an American atomic submarine had an accident a short distance from the coast of Sardinia, creating a real threat of pollution to the environment. Last February an American military aircraft "lost" a 200-kg bomb not far from Cagliari, a major town on Sardinia. And this spring, NATO aircraft "accidentally" shelled the village of Flumimi Maggiori (on the island of Sardinia) with large calibre guns.

The Italian public is calling on the authorities to adopt decisive measures to insure the safety of the population and to counter the dominance in the country of the foreign military.

U.S. FORCES USE FRG AS BRIGEHEAD IN EUROPE

LD042314Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1621 GMT 4 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Bonn: TASS correspondent Valeriy Glukhov reports:

American jeeps with soldiers in white helmets bearing the inscription "MP" have become a common sight in the streets of many West German towns in the area between Kaiserslautern and Nuremberg.

Here there are about 12 major garrisons of U.S. forces, totalling 225,000 servicemen. In Ramstein alone, where the biggest USAF base in Western Europe is located, the number of U.S. servicemen totals 20,000. Here also is the headquarters of the USAF in Europe, to which 20 U.S. air bases are subordinated. Seven of these are on FRG territory.

The U.S. forces in the FRG have the most up-to-date aircraft, missiles and artillery which can be used to carry nuclear weapons. The armed forces are continually being modernized; in particular, the obsolete Sergeant and Honest John missiles are being exchanged for Lance missiles, and the Pershing missile system is being perfected. At huge depots in Permasens, Miesau, Kaiserlautern and several other towns, great stockpiles of military machines and equipment have been built up, sufficient to equip several military formations. According to the press, there are also stockpiles of U.S. nuclear weapons in the FRG where 7,000 warheads are stored.

The U.S. generals look on FRG territory as their chief bridgehead in the event of a military conflict. Under cover of talk about "the threat from the East," the Pentagon is practising operations for emergency transfer of forces and armaments from the United States to the FRG. The plans of the U.S. military command provide for a further increase of 18,000 men in the strength of U.S. forces in the FRG.

The West German democratic public protests against the further buildup of the numbers and armaments of U.S. forces in the FRG and the expansion of the network of military bases and ranges. It considers that the plans of the U.S. command and NATO create a threat to the security of the FRG.

SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER USTINOV TO VISIT FINLAND

LD012325Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2300 GMT 1 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 2 July, TASS--In accordance with an agreement and at the invitation of Taisto Takhamaa, Finland's minister of defense, Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, will visit the Finnish Republic on an official visit in the first half of July 1978.

PRAVDA'S AFANASYEV RETURNS FROM VISIT TO FRANCE

LD041207Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jun 78 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "Return to Moscow"]

[Text] CPSU delegation headed by V.G. Afanasyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chief editor of PRAVDA, which had visited France at the invitation of the French Communist Party Central Committee, returned to Moscow on 28 June.

BREZHNEV SENDS NATIONAL DAY GREETINGS TO LUXEMBOURG

LD031456Y Moscow TASS in English 1350 GMT 3 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, July 3, TASS--Leonid Brezhnev addressed a telegram to the Grand Duke of Luxembourg Jean conveying congratulations and wishes of peace and well-being to the people of Luxembourg on the occasion of the national holiday. The grand duke of Luxembourg expressed gratitude for the congratulations, and on his part conveyed best wishes of progress and flourishing to the peoples of the Soviet Union.

MONDALE'S PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO REANIMATE EGYPT-ISRAEL TALKS

LD060539Y Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Sergey Losev commentary]

[Text] In comment that follows, our observer Sergey Losev discusses the trip to the Middle East just made by U.S. Vice President Mondale. He writes:

The primary purpose of this trip by the United States vice president was to reanimate the separate Egyptian-Israeli talks which have been profoundly deadlocked due to the extremist position of the Begin government. Mondale's meetings in Jerusalem confirmed that the Israeli Government does not intend to change its stand on such key issues of a Middle East settlement as withdrawal of troops from the occupied lands and restoration of the lawful national rights of the Arab people of Palestine. Begin reaffirmed that the only solution of the Palestine problem, in his words, lies in the granting to Western Jordan and the Gaza Strip the so-called limited self-government with the maintenance of Israeli occupation and Israeli military control for a long time to come.

Summing up the results of his talks in Jerusalem, Walter Mondale said that the differences in the approaches of the United States and Israel to the Middle East settlement remain. All the same, he stressed that Washington would never use the Israeli dependence on American military and economic aid to compel Israel to change its position. Hinting that the Arab states were inevitably to make territorial concessions to Israel, the U.S. vice president said that the Arabs would have to make difficult and painful decisions.

So far, the only practical result of Mondale's mission was agreement about a meeting in London in mid-July between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. State Secretary Cyrus Vance. It's indicative that Menahem Begin has made certain reservations even about this meeting. Begin said that Israel's participation in this conference proposed by President Carter cannot be as automatic as Washington believes it will be. In principle, he said, we would like to have a meeting of the ministers, but to begin with we would like to have a look at the new Egyptian proposals.

The Israeli Government has made it abundantly clear that at this conference it would like to reduce the role of the United States to organizing the process of bilateral Egyptian-Israeli talks and to force Washington not to assume the role of some sort of judge between Israel and Egypt. It's also indicative that the Western European press--for one, the French press--has rated the results of Mondale's talks in Jerusalem and Egypt as fruitless. The Paris newspaper FIGARO, for example, says that the results of his visit are rather negative. In the opinion of this paper the visit ended in a deadlock and has added to the tensions in the situation of total differences and misunderstandings. Another French newspaper, MATIN, underlines that President as-Sadat's initiative, which Mondale tried to revive, is not dead yet but is in agony.

The Begin machine apparently expects one thing from the coming London conference--total capitulation of Egypt and As-Sadat's consent to a new separate deal about the Sinai to the detriment of the interests of Jordan, Syria and the Arab people of Palestine. Even if As-Sadat makes up his mind about such a deal, it will not touch at the roots of the Middle East crisis and will far from prevent the danger of another Arab-Israeli war.

Only if the United States acts on its duty as a cochairman of the Geneva peace conference will it really serve a solution of the Middle East conflict. As is known, the joint Soviet-American statement on the Middle East of first October of last year advanced a realistic platform for calling a Geneva conference in order to achieve a fair and lasting settlement that would meet the interests of all the states and peoples of the Middle East without exception.

However, the Carter administration has actually backed down on the commitment contained in the joint Soviet-American statement to call a Geneva peace conference and has chosen the fruitless path of encouraging separate deals between Cairo and Tel Aviv. Incidentally, such an approach ran contrary to President Carter's election promises and his statements during the initial period after his inauguration in the White House. At that time Carter's position, on the whole, was in line with the main points in the report by the Brookings Institution about the attainment of peace in the Middle East, a comaker of which was Zbigniew Brezezinski. That report was highly critical of the stage-by-stage diplomacy of separate agreements by Henry Kissinger. It also urged the United States to support a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict which would provide, in part, for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from a greater part of the occupied lands and for granting the Palestinians the right to self-determination as well as a possibility of Soviet-American cooperation in a Middle East settlement.

The departure of the American administration from the line for a comprehensive settlement has brought to President Carter support of the Zionist organization. But that cost the United States very dearly and may cost even more in the future, as some American observers underline. This involves not only the 2 billion dollars that is given to Israel every year. The United States administration keeps repeating from time to time that it wants to resume the Geneva conference. Mondale also spoke about this. He even threatened the Begin government that if a policy of separate deal fails through the fault of Israel, the United States will have no other choice but to resume the Geneva peace conference. Yet the essence of the American position indicates that so far these are only words, and Tel Aviv realizes this very well.

EGYPT'S 'NEW' MIDEAST PLAN REPEATS OLD PROPOSITIONS

LD052309Y Moscow TASS in English 2229 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, July 5, TASS--Egypt has sent to Washington and Tel Aviv a "new" plan of the Middle East settlement. The plan was reported in today's issue of AL-AHRAM. But in reality this "plan" repeats the old propositions that were advanced earlier by Cairo for the sake of a propaganda effect in order to cover up President as-Sadat's capitulatory course. By continuing their former orientation at separate talks with Tel Aviv, the Egyptian leaders are obviously prepared to make new concessions for the sake of concluding a bilateral deal concerning the Sinai. As-Sadat has already announced Egypt's consent to resume talks with Israel. It is intended to hold these talks in London in mid-July at the level of ministers of foreign affairs with the participation of the United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

As to Tel Aviv, sensing the full support of the United States, it continues to toughen its stand. As reported by the British DAILY TELEGRAM, immediately after the publication in Cairo of the new Egyptian proposals Israel demonstratively announced its intention to increase the number of Israeli militarised settlements in occupied territories. Pressing for further concessions from Cairo, Tel Aviv, as noted by THE FINANCIAL TIMES, spoke very sceptically about the forthcoming tripartite meeting in London.

The policy of concessions and compromises, pursued by As-Sadat, leads Egypt further and further into a political impasse. The French LE FIGARO notes that dissatisfaction and disappointment with As-Sadat's "peace initiative" are growing in Egypt.

There is a split in the army and in the Egyptian society. A real threat to the present regime is taking shape, the paper points out. At the same, it writes, the economy is dislocating and the state apparatus is working with interruptions.

In an attempt to find a way out of the labyrinth of impasses, into which he was led by the policy of concessions to and compromises with the Israeli aggressor, the Egyptian president is compelled to maneuver, setting forth ever new and new futile "plans" of a settlement.

But as it is well known, a true settlement of the Middle East problem can be ensured only by way of a strict fulfillment by Israel of Resolution 242 of the United Nations Security Council that provides for a withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, and for recognition of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in that area.

EFFECTS OF EGYPT'S 'OPEN-DOOR' ECONOMIC POLICY REVIEWED

LD051522Y Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, July 5 TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov reports:

The Economic "open doors" policy, pursued in recent years, has brought to the Egyptian working people difficulties which the post-revolutionary generation has never known, actually reversing the country to the capitalist road of development. It exposed the working people to such scourges of capitalist society as inflation, skyrocketing prices and unemployment. Egypt's economic positions, not very stable as they are, have deteriorated to the utmost. Suffice it to say that a year ago, as admitted in an interview to the newspaper MISR by 'Abd al-Majid, the Egyptian minister for planning, the country was on the verge of bankruptcy.

Officials and the pro-government press are lately making vigorous attempts to give the public an impression that the economy is allegedly perking up and that the economic crisis would be overcome shortly. Advanced as the main proof of this assertion are the results of the meeting of the consultative group of capitalist states on Egypt's financing and development held in Paris this June.

In the meantime observers believe that the results of this meeting are very far from what the Egyptian Government expected to get from it. In the opinion of the Lebanese magazine EVENTS, put out in London, the steps taken in Paris are obviously of a short-term nature and are unable to cure the ailments of the Egyptian economy.

Their purpose is to give As-Sadat one more respite so that he would accept the humiliating terms of the foreign creditors. The granting of long-term "aid" hinges on the demands to cancel state subsidies for consumer goods, freeze wages and devaluate the Egyptian pound. Remembering the events of last January and fearing a new outburst of popular indignation, the government does not yet dare to concede openly to the dictate of the financial tycoons of the capitalist world. Nevertheless, the possibility is not ruled out here that in the long run it will be compelled to take this step, because, as noted by the EVENTS Egypt will require more foreign aid than it gets now to keep afloat.

As to the closer prospects, they appear to be very gloomy. Prices are to continue to go up rapidly in the country as before, inasmuch as the level of inflation, according to official figures, equals to 40 percent.

According to the calculations of specialists, the deficit of the state budget will reach almost 2,200 million dollars before the year is up. The deficit of the trade balance, in turn, will rise to 3,300 million dollars, which is 400 million dollars more than last year. The stake on foreign sources of financing, as in previous years, will entail the need of paying huge sums to cover the received credits.

In the course of this year Egypt will have to pay 800 million dollars for the medium-term loans alone. The total sum of the foreign debt fluctuates, according to different estimates, from 8,300 to 12,000 million dollars.

The fact that Egypt was unable to draw up or fulfil even a single state socio-economic development plan since the day the "open doors" policy was proclaimed is proof of Egyptian economy unsoundness. For several years now the newspapers have written about the plan for 1976-1980 as though it was an operating document, although it had not been endorsed by the people's Assembly, supreme legislative organ of the country.

Only when the government announced that the fulfilment of this plan would be started in 1978 ihstead of 1976 it became clear that there was no such plan in the real sense of the word. Six months of 1978 have already elapsed, but only an outline of the 1978-1982 five-year development plan has been approved by the People's Assembly. In other words, the practical fulfilment of this plan is being put off indefinitely once more.

EGYPTIAN PARTY STATEMENT SHARPLY CRITICAL OF AUTHORITIES

LD021428Y Moscow TASS in English 1229 GMT 2 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, July 2, TASS--The National Progressive (left) Party of the A.R.E. (NPP) is sharply critical of the actions of the Egyptian authorities which have been trying in every way to suppress the progressive forces in the country.

In a statement circulated here the General Secretariat of the NPP stressed that the government's recent measures have been a blow to the constitutional rights of the citizens, including the right to the freedom of the press and of expression, the parliamentary immunity of deputies of the People's Assembly and to the independence of political parties.

The NPP has become the main target of attacks. Our party, the statement says, is facing all kinds of groundless accusations and after a recent confiscation of its newspaper AL-AHALI, it has been actually left without an opportunity of expressing publicly its views.

After stressing that Egyptian society is now living through a serious crisis the General Secretariat of the NPP demanded suspension of the notorious law on the "protection of national unity and social peace" which was recently adopted by the People's Assembly. Now that this law is in operation Egyptian citizens do not venture to express their opinions for fear of reprisals from the authorities.

The leadership of the left party said that under its program the NPP remains committed to the principles and ideals of the Egyptian revolution of 1952 and that it comes out for strengthening the national independence of Egypt and in support of anti-imperialist struggle in any forms and of the national liberation movement of the peoples.

OTHER REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN YEMENI SITUATION

Slander of PDRY

LD051007Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jul 78 p 5 LD

[Yu. Glukhov article: "Intrigues Are Being Woven"]

[Text] The slander campaign over recent events in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) and over relations between the two Yemeni states is continuing in the reactionary Arab and Western press. Particular activity is being displayed by the newspapers of Saudi Arabia, which is intimidating the Arab peoples with a "communist conspiracy" and which is making false anti-Soviet accusations.

The Saudi newspaper AR-RIYADH has in fact called for a crusade by reactionary Arab regimes against the PDRY in which U.S. imperialism would participate. The same goals are being proclaimed by Saudi representatives at the session of the Arab League Council which is opening in Cairo. They would clearly like to provoke a fraticidal war between the two Yemens, divert the peoples of these countries away from peaceful creative labor and hamper their economic and social upsurge and their development along the path of progress. And this, according to Riyadh's calculations, would enable it to transform the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula into its own domain.

Distorting the nature of events taking place in the PDRY, reactionary circles are deliberately ignoring the precise and unequivocal explanations given in Aden at the very highest level. The recent events in the PDRY are that republic's internal affairs. It is a question of the exposure of a plot and the foiling of an attempted coup undertaken by Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali.

The conspirators' plans were foiled thanks to the revolutionary awareness and vigilance of the broad masses. Over the years of revolutionary struggle the United Political Organization-National Front has worked out principles of collective leadership, declared Salih Muslih al-Qasim, member of the United Political Organization-National Front Central Committee Politburo and PDRY minister of the interior. (It was pointed out erroneously in agency reports published 28 June that S.M. al-Qasim was a party to the conspiracy.) These principles, he said, insure that the correct revolutionary course is selected and provide a guarantee against any deviations.

Having exposed the plot by internal reaction the PDRY leadership confirmed that it intends to preserve the bonds of cooperation which the republic maintains with Arab states and to pursue a policy based on peaceful coexistence. As far as relations between the PDRY and the Yemen Arab Republic are concerned, they are at present good, despite all the attempts to undermine them, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council, declared in an interview with a correspondent of the London MORNING STAR.

It is obvious that the campaign of slander against the PDRY is linked with the failure of the conspiracy in this country, the progressive development of which is not to the liking of the reactionary Arab regimes and the forces of imperialism. Seeing the failure of their plans, these circles would like to create a pretext for interference in the affairs of the two Yemeni states, which is a reckless and dangerous venture.

Arab League Council Meeting

LD051213Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jul 78 p 5 LD

[Text] 3 July TASS--The Arab League Council session has completed its work in Cairo. Under blunt pres re from Saudi Arabia and Egypt it adopted a number of decisions aimed against the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], decisions that are nothing but an attempt to exert crude pressure on the PDRY and to interfere in its internal affairs.

The League Council resolved to "freeze all political and diplomatic relations between the Arab League countries and the PDRY and to halt cultural and economic relations with it and the rendering of technical aid to it." In brief, it is a case of an attempt to stifle economically a progressive regime in Aden whose policy has not been to the liking of the forces of Arab reaction.

These persecutions against one of its members--unprecedented in League history--were sanctioned not without a struggle. The sensible voices of the representatives of some member countries, particularly Kuwait and Lebanon, warned of the futility of such actions.

It should be noted that, taking into account its nature, Algeria, Libya, Iraq, the PDRY, Syria, and the PLO boycotted the Cairo session of the council. Nor was the Republic of Djibouti represented at the session. In this connection political commentators are drawing attention to the incompetence of the decisions of the council.

As is well known, the reactionary Arab regimes, with U.S. support, are trying--as the foreign press has frequently reported--to created a tense situation in the region of the two Yemen states. Yemen Arab Republic President al-Ghashmi was assassinated as a result of a provocation and with the direct complicity of the reactionary regimes. The same goal was pursued by the attempted coup in the country by former PDRY President Salim Rubyayyi' 'Ali. 'Ali's personal involvement in the plot was not only condemned by the United Political Organization-National Front but resolute steps were also taken against the conspirators--a special court sentenced them to death. The PDRY press has pointed out that 'Ali was closely linked with and worked for Saudi Arabian intelligence organs.

Aden Radio has broadcast a statement by a PDRY Foreign Ministry spokesman stating that troops are massing on the south Yemen border in order to carry out aggression against that country.

"The Yemen people," the statement emphasizes, "will not stand idle in the face of acts of aggression directed by hostile foreign forces which have already made one attempt and are still attempting to plunge our people into an internal conflict.... Those people who try to step up tension and create problems between the sons of a united Yemen must know that the aggressive actions to which our people are being subjected have failed and that any new acts of aggression are also doomed to failure."

Yemen radio has broadcast a statement by PDRY Defense Minister A. Antar [as published] who has stressed that if south Yemen is obliged to fight then "it will not fight alone." The PDRY, he said, can count on aid from its allies--both within the Arab world and outside it.

Saudi Preparations

LD052104Y Moscow TASS in English 1746 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, July 5, TASS--TASS political commentator Sergey Losev writes:

After the rout of the attempted state coup in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, undertaken by the former Chairman of the Presidential Council Salim Rubayyi' with the aim of seizing power in the country, those who pushed him to this venture are trying to achieve their aims by different means. According to available information Saudi Arabia is vigorously preparing an armed intervention against the PDRY in the hope of overthrowing the progressive regime that is not to the liking of Riyadh.

As reported by the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, the Saudi Arabian Army has been put in a state of mobilizational readiness.

On agreement with the United States, the Saudi Arabian Government wants to draw north Yemen (Yemeni Arab Republic), Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates into the fulfilment of its plans of intervention. The Jordanian newspaper AR-RAY writes that the question "of the immediate implementation of the drawn-up military plans against the PDRY" under the pretext of struggle against "communist danger", was studied at the July meeting of representatives of these countries in Cairo.

The just ended session of the Arab League Council, in which such leading countries of the Arab east as Algeria, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Syria, Iraq and the Palestine resistance movement refused to take part, adopted a decision which it had no right to adopt, a decision directed at isolating the PDRY and freezing diplomatic, economic and trade relations with it.

Attention is drawn also to the hostile campaign of threats against Democratic Yemen launched in some Arab countries.

The forces of imperialism and reaction are obviously leading matters to a repetition in south Yemen of what they had recently succeeded in accomplishing in Zaire's Shaba Province. As is known, under the false slogan of resisting a mythical "Cuban and Soviet interference", an armed intervention by some NATO countries and regimes connected with them was organized in Zaire.

In order to engineer a pretext for armed intervention against the PDRY, Saudi Arabia is trying to provoke an attack by the Yemeni Arab Republic against south Yemen. Last Sunday, troops of north Yemen, egged on from the outside, seized two villages in the PDRY's 4th province, but were repulsed.

The leadership of Democratic Yemen is now doing everything possible to prevent an armed conflict. The joint [United] Political Organization-National Front and the revolutionary Government of the PDRY, while cautioning the Yemeni Arab Republic against taking rash steps, offer north Yemen to take the only reasonable road of normalizing relations and peacefully settling the existing differences.

There is no need to say how baleful would be the consequences of an armed intervention against Democratic Yemen.

What the forces of reaction and imperialism have succeeded in accomplishing in Zaire's Shaba Province should not be repeated in the south of the Arabian Peninsula.

The sovereign People's Democratic Republic of Yemen is not standing alone, and progressive forces will not abandon it at a time of trial.

A statement published by the PDRY Foreign Ministry on July 5 called on all fraternal and friendly countries to exert every effort to resist foreign interference in the affairs of south Yemen. "Those who want to aggravate tension and create conflict situations can be sure that their aggressive plans will fail," the statement points out.

"The concentration of armed forces with the aim of aggression against our people cannot frighten it and deprive it of the lawful right to defend its national sovereignty and progressive gains, the right to resolutely rebuff those who are trying to crush the revolution."

AL-QADHDHAFI REVIEWS EUROPEAN TOUR, EVENTS IN AFRICA

LD031938Y Moscow TASS in English 1747 GMT 3 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Warsaw, July 3, TASS--Libya seeks closer cooperation with the family of socialist countries since it is building a new society, a cherished dream of many generations of philosophers, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, general secretary of the General People's Congress of Libya, said at a press conference here. He was staying in Poland on an official friendly visit.

During my tour of the socialist countries, he said, I could see for myself the falsity of Western propaganda which gives a distorted view of the process of building a new society.

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi then said that during his visits to the socialist countries, certain agreement was reached concerning opposition to the imperialist campaign in Africa. We got full support from our friends. The socialist countries support the just struggle of the Arab people of Palestine and their desire to build an independent state.

I was gratified to see, he said, that the socialist countries consider Libya a progressive state and are giving it every support. This support is a fitting reply to the Western "black propaganda" over Libya.

I should like to stress that during my visits I established good friendly contacts with the leaders of the socialist countries. These have raised relations between Libya and the socialist countries to a qualitatively new level. They will also enable us to strengthen economic cooperation with the socialist countries and to increase Libya's foreign trade.

Libya, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said, will never agree to the presence of foreign troops in Chad. He urged France to withdraw immediately its troops from that country. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that he saw no reason for the presence of foreign troops in the Zaire Province of Shaba.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

NATO SEES 'MIRAGES' OF SOVIET-CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA

LD051820Y Moscow TASS in English 1744 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

["Mirages of NATO Strategists"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, July 5, TASS--TASS commentator Nataliya Zinovyeva writes:

In hot African deserts a mirage is an optical phenomenon. But the mirages that NATO military strategists see in their air-conditioned offices are obviously a political phenomenon. They imagine terrible pictures of "Soviet-Cuban movement towards Eritrea," and the appearance of a Soviet air armada at Masawa on the Red Sea.

But these political mirages are just as unrealistic as cases seen in a barren desert.

Nevertheless, the NATO military hurry to conclude that "the movement into Ethiopia" is supposedly "a military operation of great significance," threatening Saudi Arabia, the transportation of oil to the West from Persian Gulf countries and strategic raw materials from Africa.

The New York TIMES commentator Middleton has made his contribution to whipping up fears about mythical intrigues of the USSR and Cuba in the Red Sea area. These concoctions are on Middleton's conscience. They were invented by him with the aim of galvanising the myth about the "Soviet threat," but neither the USSR nor Cuba have threatened and are threatening no Arab capitals, including Riyadh, just as they are not threatening oil deliveries to the West. The Western special services that are instigating such concoctions, would like to cover up imperialisms' attempts to overthrow the progressive regimes in Ethiopia and the PDRY, to create a constant seat of tension in the Red Sea area.

The appearance in the New York TIMES of a new portion of concoctions about Soviet and Cuban "activities" in Africa is symptomatic. Such "material" is regularly supplied by NATO propagandamen with the aim of diverting attention from interference by NATO countries in the affairs of African states. Interference, real and not invented interference, only aggravates conflict situations as was the case in the area of the Horn of Africa. Let us note that whenever the Western press resorts to such diversion manoeuvres, they serve as a sort of prelude to a new interference.

FRENCH MEDIA, AFRICAN 'COMMENTATORS' FABRICATE SOVIET THREAT

LD051341Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jul 78 p 5 LD

[Yu. Kharlanov dispatch: "Inventors of Myths"]

[Text] Paris--Jonas Savimbi, the boss of the terrorist gangs from the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], which are trained, financed and infiltrated into Angola by the CIA, the racists from the Republic of South Africa and by the Peking regime, appeared before French television viewers. For half an hour this mercenary who serves three masters simultaneously intimidated the French people with claims of "Soviet penetration" of Africa and called on the Western powers to intervene militarily in the affairs of sovereign African states.

Zairian mercenaries have also recently become permanent "commentators" on French radio and television and in Paris' bourgeois newspapers. Their task has been to intensively propagate the myth of the Soviet and Cuban "threat" to the African Continent. Staff journalists of rightwing French newspapers--for example, Guilleme-Brulon, a LE FIGARO commentator--have helped them as much as possible. [paragraph continues]

Incidentally, this commentator is "renowned" for his statement that in the past the West "did the wrong thing" and "failed to heed" the recommendations of Portuguese dictator Salazar who, Guilleme-Brulon said, was the only person to pursue the correct policy in Africa.

The campaign of provocation is not waning. Impressive means have been mobilized for pursuing this campaign. Last Friday a program was televised whose very title--"Africa Between the Hammer and Sickle"--indicates what aims it serves. It included extracts from interviews with and speeches by P. Botha, the foreign minister of the Republic of South Africa, I. Smith, premier of the Rhodesian racist regime, and Z. Brzezinski, assistant to the U.S. President. These figures' concepts concerning African problems have long been severely condemned by the world public.

The provocative nature of broadcasts of this kind is perfectly clear. No less clear is who needs such provocations on the television and why. They are intended for "justification" of the actual NATO military intervention in Zaire and to bring Africa into the North Atlantic bloc's "sphere of action."

AFRICAN CONDEMNATIONS OF NATO 'INTER-AFRICAN FORCE' CITED

LD050819Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jun 78 p 5 LD

[A. Serbin article: "Rebuff to Neocolonialism"]

[Text] Numerous reports indicate that an "inter-African force"--that creation of neocolonialism--has taken up positions on Ziare soil and, as the magazine JEUNE AFRIQUE wrote recently, has even begun "firing guns." Politicians in the United States, France, and other NATO countries, under whose aegis this peculiar legion was hastily knocked together, are trying to pass it off as a defender of Africa's interests and as the continent's savior from "communist penetration." But the African peoples, who are familiar from experience with the methods of the colonialists, clearly see the West's actions as a threat to their independence.

As the Soviet Government statement points out, the arrival of the "inter-African force" in Zaire serves the purposes of broadening imperialist interference in the affairs of the African Continent. "The 'inter-African force,'" the document states, "is acting under the control and in the interests of certain NATO powers, and any attempts somehow to legitimize it could have dangerous consequences for all African countries."

The "inter-African force" was formulated during NATO's Washington session in May and at the June conference of the United States, Britain, France, Belgium and the FRG in Paris.

These actions, the Benin newspaper EZUHU wrote, "are aimed at implementing a new strategy for the defense of the interests of imperialist countries in Africa."

The almost 3,000-strong contingent of the "inter-African force" was assembled at random. The imperialist powers managed to involve only a small group of African countries in its creation. But the NATO strategists had no choice: other states on the continent did not wish to harness themselves to the imperialist team. "It is the height of arrogance for any non-African country whatever to speak of creating a pan-African force for the defense of Africa," President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania declared. "It is quite obvious that those who proposed this idea and those who are trying to create such a force are not interested in the freedom of Africa. They are interested in dominating Africa."

The Military Committee of the Congolese Labor Party pointed out in a special statement that the "inter- African force" is a "machine for the destruction and destabilization of progressive African regimes and the suppression of growing democratic forces in Africa." Condemning the West's plans, Sam Nujoma, president of the South West Africa People's Organization, called the creation of the "inter-African" armed corps "an attempt by the imperialist NATO countries to interfere in the internal affairs of independent African states and to colonize the African Continent again."

The United States and its allies widely resort to actions which undermine anti-imperialist cooperation among African states. It was not accidental that the whole venture with the "inter-African force" was conceived and implemented in circumvention of the OAU. "The policy of the West," President Agostinho Neto of the People's Republic of Angola declared in connection with the actions of imperialist states, "is provoking a split in the OAU and Africa, which they are urging in every possible way to renounce solidarity with the national liberation movements."

A resolution condemning the creation of the "inter-African force" and "the new role of the imperialists, their lackeys and their mercenaries in Africa" was adopted at a session of the OAU Liberation Committee. The majority adoption of this resolution attests that the African countries are clearly aware of the extent of the imperialist threat and are rebuffing it.

The newspaper ETHIOPIAN HERALD points out that the NATO countries' knocking together of the "inter-African force" is calculated to create "permanent sources of tension in order to perpetuate the rule of imperialism in Africa." Rejecting the policy of splitting African unity and condemning the embroiling of certain countries with others, the peoples of Africa are rebuffing neocolonialism and upholding their right to free and independent existence.

ANGOLAN PUBLIC, MEDIA PROTEST NATO MILITARY OPERATIONS

LD051545Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jul 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Volkov report: "Serious Concern"]

[Text] Luanda, 2 July--The concentration of large contingents of South African troops at Namibia's northern border and the transfer of the so-called "pan-African forces" under the command of NATO officers in Zaire's Shaba Province toward the Angolan border are prompting serious concern among the Angolan public. Mass meetings and demonstrations are taking place throughout the country at which the participants are expressing indignation at the military preparations of the racists of the Republic of South Africa and the NATO countries.

The new show of strength by the Pretoria regime and the NATO strategists in Zaire is very closely linked with the general counteroffensive by international imperialism on the African Continent, the newspaper JORNAL DE ANGOLA writes. The collaboration between the racists and the largest imperialist powers, the newspaper writes, is aimed at preventing the implementation of the socioeconomic transformations which the progressive African states are implementing and also at smashing the wave of the liberation struggle.

NKOMO CITES SOCIALIST COMMUNITY SUPPORT, RACIST PLOTS

LD011648Y Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 1 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Lusaka, July 1, TASS--The Soviet Union, other countries of the socialist community are natural and sincere friends and allies of the peoples fighting for their national liberation. This has been stated by a co-leader of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, Joshua Nkomo, speaking at a meeting today.

The socialist countries, he said, are giving disinterested aid to the patriots, including Zimbabwe, at their request. He stressed that Western states, refusing to support the liberation struggle of the peoples of South Africa, openly assist the racist regimes. They give these regimes economic and financial aid, supply them with arms which are used by the racists in the struggle against the patriots for punitive expeditions against the peaceful African population, for attacking neighbouring sovereign states.

Joshua Nkomo has resolutely laid bare the provocative hullabaloo, raised in the Western press, that allegedly the struggle of the peoples of South Africa for freedom and independence was inspired by the Soviet Union and Cuba. The imperialists needed that insolent lie, he said, to cover up and justify their own dirty designs, aimed at down-right interference into African peoples' affairs and neocolonisation of the continent. Western mass media, Joshua Nkomo said, distorts the aims of our liberation struggle, spreads malicious rumours about the Patriotic Front and its objectives, trying to smear it in the eyes of the Zimbabwe people and the world public opinion.

We are not fighting against the white population. We are fighting against the Smith regime, which oppresses our people, Joshua Nkomo said. In this struggle, he said, we rely on support and assistance of the countries of the socialist community, and all the progressive forces of the world.

USSR, SIERRA LEONE SIGN FISHING COOPERATION PROTOCOL

LD060242Y Moscow in English to Africa 1330 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Here in Moscow the Soviet Union and Sierra Leone have signed a protocol on cooperation in fishing and fisheries. The protocol was signed at the end of the second session of the mixed commission on fishing. A number of measures envisaged by it are to be put into practice next year. For Sierra Leone, the protocol was signed by Mr (Chovunkel Sawyer), chief fisheries officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In his opinion the document is of great importance for the development of Soviet-Sierra Leone cooperation and for the economy of his country. He described Sierra Leon's cooperation with the Soviet Union as very fruitful and thanked the Soviet Union for its great help to his country in developing the economy.

PRC-JAPAN TREATY 'DIRECTLY CONTRADICTS' SOVIET INTERESTS

OW050503Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 0830 GMT 30 Jun 78 OW

[Sergeyev commentary]

[Excerpts] The Japanese Government has decided to resume negotiations with China on concluding a peace and friendship treaty. In this connection, commentator Sergeyev comments:

The circumstances surrounding the important decision made by the Japanese leadership are noteworthy. We see an alliance there--an alliance based solely on an anti-Soviet doctrine. The alliance between Peking and the international reactionary forces is gaining strength. As is well-known, China regards the Soviet Union as a major enemy. It is even stated in China's new constitution. While accelerating its preparations for war, China, relying on its military power, puts pressure on neighboring countries through numerous territorial demands.

The Chinese leadership is plotting to frustrate the process of detente and draw Japan into an anti-Soviet alliance. At the same time, it is desperately attempting to exploit the present complications in Soviet-U.S. relations. The Senkaku incident occurred before Japan had decided to resume the treaty negotiations. Even after the decision was made, China lodged a protest on 26 June in connection with the Japan-South Korea continental shelf agreement. It is obvious that China was waiting for the Japanese Diet's House of Concillors to ratify the agreement before making the protest. In Japan, people are now arguing about China's motives behind this protest. But at least one thine is clear--China will continue to employ both the continental shelf and Senkaku issues whenever it finds it necessary to impose pressure on Japan. Such is the behavior of the country with which Japan is trying to sign a peace and friendship treaty. Unfortunately however, there is a group of influential people in Japan insisting on the conclusion of the treaty with China. They ignore the fact that the treaty will harm Soviet-Japan relations in the political, economic and all other areas. The decision of the Japanese leadership itself proves the presence of this group. Therefore, the Japanese decision is not only a result of outside pressure but also may be regarded to some degree as Japan's independent foreign policy action stemming from that powerful group's secret maneuvers.

Now here are a series of questions. Does the Japanese Government's decision mean that there has been a change in its foreign policy toward the Soviet Union after it repeatedly declared its intention to continue peaceful, friendly relations with the USSR? It is difficult to estimate the consequences of such a change, since it will disrupt the balance of mutual relations that have been built up in the Far East and cause tensions in the area. At the same time the decision means that the faction within the Japanese ruling circles supporting Peking's anti-Soviet, expansionist and aggressive ambitions is gaining the upper hand, does it not?

The decision, one of the most important political decisions in the entire postwar era, puts Japan to a crucial test. Should Japan conclude the treaty with China and accept its terms, it would mean that Japan had crossed the danger line, thereby subjecting principles of the Japanese foreign policy to great doubts. There is an argument that Japan differs with China in the interpretation of a clause in the projected treaty dealing with joint action against the hegemony of a third nation. This kind of argument cannot deceive people who value--not in word alone but by practical deed--peace, security and prosperity in Asia and the Far East.

All developments in Japan-Soviet relations clearly indicate that an anti-Soviet policy will bring nothing good to Japan, but on the contrary, will lead it to the darkest page in its history. This fact should be constantly kept in mind, since the conclusion of the Japan-China peace and friendship treaty directly contradicts the interests of the USSR. The USSR does not intend to remain an indifferent bystander. Should anyone in Japan think that the anti-Soviet treaty with China would add to Japan's international prestige, he would be greatly disappointed. No nation can have its international prestige enhanced by means of an alliance with a country pursuing a reactionary policy that is hostile to the whole world and bound to fail.

The proposed anti-Soviet treaty is reminiscent of the notorious treaty Tokyo concluded during World War II which is well known for its ugly purpose. The majority of the Japanese people are aware that what the handful of politicians working for the conclusion of the Japan-China treaty have in mind is not in the interests of Japan.

Problems stemming from the treaty issue place a heavy responsibility on Japan because the projected treaty goes far beyond the framework of bilateral relations with China. This should be clearly remembered by those attempting to have Japan change its course and lead it toward a hopeless future and a political confrontation with the USSR, to cause setbacks in Japan-Soviet relations, and to create an atmosphere of tension in the Far East.

In our view, this kind of development sought by them will never satisfy the Japanese people, whose desire is to live and work peacefully and amiably with the Soviet Union, their neighbor.

MPR DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER, DELEGATION VISIT LITHUANIA

LD041449Y Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 18 Jun 78 p 1 LD

[ELTA report: "Guests From Mongolia"]

[Text] Vilnius, 17 June--Today a delegation from Mongolia arrived in the republic led by Maj Gen (Tumende Mberel), Mongolian first deputy defense minister and chief of the Mongolian State Directorate for Civil Defense. The delegation is being accompanied by Lt Gen D. Mikhaylik, USSR deputy civil defense chief.

On the same day the delegation was received by I. Manyushis, chairman of the Lithuanian Council of Ministers. He told the Mongolian comrades about the republic's successes in the years of Soviet power, the development of the economy and culture, the fulfillment by the working people of Soviet Lithuania of the 25th CPSU Congress decisions and about the new USSR and Lithuanian constitutions.

Taking part in the conversation were: Maj Gen S. Stalauskas, chief of staff of Lithuanian civil defense; A. Buylis, chief of the Lithuanian CP Central Committee administrative organs section; and officials of the republic's Council of Ministers.

The Mongolian guests will spend 2 days in the republic.

MORE ON KOSYGIN REPORT AT SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

LD051634Y Moscow TASS in English 1559 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpts] Moscow, July 5, TASS--The draft law on the Council of Ministers of the USSR was drawn up in accordance with the Constitution of the country, the decisions of the 24th and 25th CPSU Congresses and subsequent plenary meetings of the party's Central Committee. This was said by the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin today at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet when he delivered a report on the draft law.

The political content of this document is determined by the provision in the Constitution that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is the guiding and directing force of Soviet society, the nucleus of its political system. On the basis of the Constitution the draft law defines the Council of Ministers of the USSR as the highest executive and administrative body of state authority of the USSR. The draft bill consistently implements the principle of the responsibility and accountability of the USSR Council of Ministers to the USSR Supreme Soviet and its Presidium.

Summing up the long years of the Soviet Government's activities, the draft law places at the forefront questions of society's economic and social development. It was this sphere of activity that already from the very first years of Soviet power acquired paramount importance in the Soviet people's struggle for socialism, for the socialist transformation of society.

The Soviet economy's steady growth is first of all a practical result of the utilization of the objective laws and advantages of the socialist system of economy, based on public ownership of means of production, a result of planned economic management. The content of the draft law is keynoted by the idea of the unbreakable connection of the entire activities of the Soviet Government with the needs of the people, with the interests of workers, peasants and intellectuals, of working people of all the nations and peoples of our country. The draft law determines the main tasks and powers of the Council of Ministers in further raising the material and cultural standard of the Soviet people's life, in developing education and culture, improving medical services provided for the population and expanding the possibilities for citizens to apply their creative potential.

The draft law defines the powers of the Council of Ministers in the field of the organization of state administration. The government unites and directs the work of all union and union-republican ministries, of the state committees of the USSR and other bodies subordinated to it, and determines their tasks and functions.

Since the USSR is a single multinational, union state, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, as it is said in the draft law, takes measures to strengthen the cohesion of the country's nations and peoples with the aim of the joint building of communism, ensures a combination of the interests of the union as a whole and the union republics.

The draft law provides that the USSR Council of Ministers, which is entrusted with overall guidance in the field of relations with foreign states and international organizations, shall further ensure the expansion of various forms of the Soviet Union's international cooperation.

A central place in the Council of Ministers' endeavours in this field is invariably held by questions of cooperation with socialist countries, which account for more than 57 per cent of the Soviet Union's foreign trade turnover.

The government takes measures to deepen the international socialist division of labour on the basis of coordination of our state plans with those of member-states of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, and agreed-upon measures in the field of the socialist economic integration.

In accordance with the draft law, the government will give guidance to the activities of Soviet bodies in the drafting and implementation jointly with CMEA countries of long-term special programs of cooperation, whose realization will be a considerable step forward in deepening the specialization and cooperation of production by the fraternal countries.

Correspondent's Report

LD051135Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Special correspondent's report from the Kremlin]

[Text] Today's sitting of the USSR Supreme Soviet, at the first joint session of the two chambers, heard a report on the draft law on the USSR Council of Ministers read by Comrade Kosygin, chairman of the Council of Ministers of our country.

Discussing the main trends in the activities of the USSR Council of Ministers in managing the economy in recent years, the speaker stressed that in all its work, the government is guided by the precise and well-founded political line of the CPSU Central Committee and the relevant instructions of the Central Committee Politburo, both in general problems of principle and in practical issues in our building of communism. Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin said that the government has devoted particular attention to the practical fulfillment of the party's agrarian policy. The speaker said that since the March 1975 plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, capital investments totaling R290 billion have been made in agriculture--three times as much as in all the preceding years of Soviet power. This has made possible a considerable growth in the output of all of the most important types of agricultural production and an increase in the consumption of these products.

A broad (?program) for a further upsurge in agriculture has been laid down at the plenum of the party Central Committee which has just been held. The implementation of this program, the speaker said, will enable the output of agricultural production to be increased and its dependence on the caprices of weather to be reduced, and the provisions of food and agricultural raw materials to the country to be improved.

Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin noted that the unswerving implementation of plenum decisions would be one of the primary tasks of the government in the forthcoming period. The USSR Council of Ministers, the speaker said, is devoting more and more attention to major all-state interindustrial and territorial programs, such as the development of the Non-Chernozem Zone of the RSFSR, the assimilation of the natural resources of Western Siberia and the building of the Baykal-Amur railroad. The speaker noted that all economic development issues are viewed by the government primarily from the point of view of raising in every way the efficiency of production and quality of work. The draft law, Comrade Kosygin continued, lays down the main tasks and powers of the Council of Ministers in raising the material and cultural level of the life of the people.

The speaker said, in particular, that compared with 1940, retail trade turnover per capita has increased sevenfold in our country. In the first 2 years of the current 5-year plan alone, over 4 million apartments were built.

The speaker went on to note that the draft law on the USSR Council of Ministers insures that it must continue to provide for the expansion of various forms of international cooperation of the Soviet Union, which at present is trading with 118 countries.

Aleksey Nikolayevich, Kosygin stressed that our socialist state, which has a mighty economic and defense potential, is showing particular concern for the preservation and consolidation of peace. The chief aim of the activities of the Council of Ministers in foreign policy and international affairs is concern for peace.

The head of the Soviet Government said, however, that as long as the dangerous arms race has not been stopped, the USSR will follow with great vigilance the actions of the aggressive imperialist forces and take all necessary measures to strengthen the country's defenses.

In conclusion, Comrade Kosygin said: The new law, which will be adopted by the Supreme Soviet, makes great demands on the activities of the Council of Ministers and our whole state machinery. Reading this law, each citizen of our country will see in it not only the whole range of obligations in administering the affairs of the state laid on the government, but will be able to form a better idea of his own rights and responsibilities for the state of affairs in the state. This is very important, because our state is kept strong by the conscientiousness of its citizens. No government would be in a position to cope with the tremendous variety of tasks which it must carry out in the conditions of advanced socialism if it could not rely on the broad creative activity and support of the masses, guided by the Communist Party.

A report by the Commission of Legislative Proposals of the Chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet was read at the session by Deputy Kebin, chairman of the commission in the Soviet of Nationalities. The session has begun debating the law on the USSR Council of Ministers.

DRAFT LAW ON COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSSED

LD051252Y Moscow TASS in English 1236 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, July 5, TASS--The discussion of the draft law on the Council of Ministers of the USSR is another testimony of the concern of the CPSU, its Central Committee with Leonid Brezhnev at the head for the further strengthening of the legal foundation of the state and social life of the country, said Deputy Ivan Kebin, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Estonia, a Soviet Baltic republic. He spoke at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet which opened in the Kremlin today. It is attended by Deputies Leonid Brezhnev, Aleksey Kosygin, other Soviet leaders.

The deputies, elected by the people, are discussing the draft law on the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the adoption of which is envisaged by the new Soviet Constitution.

A report on this issue was made by Aleksey Kosygin, head of the Soviet Government. He emphasized that underlying the draft law were the Leninist principles of organization and activities of the Soviet state.

The speakers noted that the Council of Ministers of the USSR conducts its activities in accordance with decisions of the CPSU and the main objectives of the socialist state of the whole people. At all stages of Communist construction the party has been confidently and firmly paving the road into the future. A vivid confirmation of this is the CPSU Central Committee's plenary meeting, just held.

The communists, the whole people approved with profound enthusiasm its decisions on further development of the socialist agriculture of the USSR.

An exclusive importance of the document under discussion has been noted in his speech by Aleksandr Lyashko, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine. The deputy said that the new Constitution of the USSR was firmly entering into life, is being translated into practical deeds. The convincing testimony of this is the draft law on the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

Adoption of the law on the Council of Ministers of the USSR, it was stressed at the session, would be an important measure in perfecting the work of state administration bodies in implementing the mammoth plans of construction of communism in the USSR, projected by the CPSU, its Leninist Central Committee. The draft law reflects the democratic principles of activities of the state apparatus, broad participation of the working people in managing affairs of society.

Discussing the draft law, the deputies approve it, make amendments to specify the powers of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and organizational forms of its activities.

Law Adopted

LD051640Y Moscow TASS in English 1606 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, July 5, TASS--The law on the Council of Ministers of the USSR was unanimously adopted at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet that opened in the Kremlin today.

In his concluding speech, the head of the Soviet Government Aleksey Kosygin noted that the unanimous approval by the deputies of the draft law was new evidence of the concern shown by the CPSU, the party's Central Committee headed by Leonid Brezhnev for the further consolidation of the legal basis of state and public life.

The law defines in detail the role of the Council of Ministers in the implementation of the Soviet society's economic and social development and formulated in it are the main directions and principles of the government's activities. It unites and directs the work of all union and union-republican ministries and state committees of the USSR. It is entrusted with overall guidance in the field of relations with foreign states and international organisations.

The law determines that concern for peace, for the implementation of the Leninist peace-loving policy is the aim of the activities of the Council of Ministers in the field of foreign policy and international relations.

When pursuing the foreign policy, when solving questions of ensuring the security and defence capability of the country, the USSR Government will proceed from the Soviet people's great desire for peace and its firm resolve to uphold peace. This is the essence of the corresponding articles in the law on the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

Supreme Soviet Decision

LD051630Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The following is the decision of the USSR Supreme Soviet on the procedure for putting into operation the USSR law on the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

The USSR Supreme Soviet decrees [postanovlyat]:

In accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the USSR with regard to the USSR Council of Ministers renaming the state committees of the USSR Council of Ministers as state committees of the USSR,

To reorganize the all union association Soyuzselkhoztekhnika of the Council of Ministers of the USSR into the State Committee of the USSR for the Production and Technical Provision of Agriculture [Gosudarstvenniy Komitet SSR po Proizvodstvenno-Tekhnicheskomy Obespecheniyu Selskogo Khozyaystva], and the Chief Directorate of State Material Reserves of the USSR Council of Ministers into the State Committee of the USSR for Material Reserves [Gosudarstvenniy Komitet SSR po Materialnym Reservam];

To rename the Committee for State Security of the USSR Council of Ministers as the Committee for State Security of the USSR, and the Central Statistical Directorate of the USSR Council of Ministers as the Central Statistical Directorate of the USSR;

To establish that the chairman of the board of the USSR State Bank and the head of the Central Statistical Directorate of the USSR should become members of the USSR Council of Ministers before the formation by the USSR Supreme Soviet of the new composition of the Government of the USSR.

The USSR Council of Ministers should carry out the decisions of the Government of the USSR in accordance with the laws of the USSR on the USSR Council of Ministers.

SUPREME SOVIET SESSION RESUMES ON 6 JULY

LD060918Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 6 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] The ninth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the ninth convocation continued its work in the Great Kremlin Palace at 1000 today. The deputies welcomed with stormy and prolonged applause Comrades Brezhnev, Andropov, Grishin, Gromyko, Kirilenko, Kosygin, Kulakov, Kunayev, Pelshe, Romanov, Suslov, Ustinov, Shcherbitskiy, Aliyev, Demichev, Kuznetsov, Ponomarev, Rashidov, Solomentsev, Chernenko, Kapitonov, Dolgikh, Zimyanin, Ryabov and Rusakov.

A report on the draft law on the procedure for concluding, implementing and abrogated international treaties of the USSR was delivered by Deputy Gromyko, USSR foreign minister.

Gromyko Report

LD060944Y Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 6 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, July 6 TASS--USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko has addressed today the session of the Supreme Soviet with a report on the draft law of the USSR on the order of conclusion, implementation and denunication of international treaties by the USSR. The essence of the draft law is, he said, in establishing such an order of conclusion and implementation of international treaties that would to a maximum possible degree contribute to the implementation of the objectives and principles of the Soviet Union's foreign policy as proclaimed and sealed in the Constitution of the USSR. The draft law is one of the practical results of implementation of the large-scale program of legislative work being carried out in our country in connection with the coming of the new Constitution in force.

The need for a new law is the more obvious, the minister said, that a little less than forty years have passed since the adoption of the law of 1938 on the order of ratification and denunciation of international treaties. Understandably, there have been vast changes, including in this field, over the period.

The social class composition of our partners in international relations, and accordingly in treaties, has radically changed, Andrey Gromyko noted. A leading place in our foreign relations is now held by the brother socialist countries. And the Soviet Union devotes paramount attention to the development of all-round cooperation with them. A vivid proof of this is the recent visit to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic of the USSR party and government delegation led by Leonid Brezhnev.

But what has remained unchanged throughout the whole sixty year period of the Soviet state's existence is its principled attitude to international treaties , to international commitments. It has been and remains a consistently class attitude in its character. When concluding treaties or acceding to them, our country proceeds from the necessity of ensuring its political, economic and other interests as a socialist state and is guided by the interests of socialism as a whole. And this underlies the new draft law. We also always proceed from the premise, the speaker stressed, that international treaties are called upon to serve as instruments of the policy of peace, security of peoples, equitable and mutually beneficial cooperation of all the states.

We struggled and continue to struggle so that law and justice in international relations should fully replace violence, aggression and imperialist arbitrary rule, Andrey Gromyko stressed.

The minister went on to say that the wide appearance of socialism in the world arena, the formation of the socialist community of states have brought about international legal standards of a new type. They are based on the internationalist class solidarity of the working people in these countries and their versatile cooperation.

The treaties of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance concluded by the Soviet Union with Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the GDR, Mongolia and the KDPR proceed from genuine respect for the sovereignty and independence, sovereign equality and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of each of the sides and other democratic standards of international law. At the same time, they include the principles of fraternal friendship and mutual assistance, harmonious combination of the interests of individual states with their common interests, with the interests of socialist internationalism that are inherent precisely in the socialist countries.

The system of the treaties linking the Soviet Union and the European socialist states, the speaker went on to say, is cemented by the Warsaw Treaty, which formalized the establishment of their collective defence alliance. It is a real shield of socialism, an effective instrument for pursuing the peaceful policy of the socialist community. These treaties between brother states, and especially the Warsaw Treaty, are a vivid indication of the fact that the socialist countries have turned into a mighty monolith, whose unity no one can shake.

Contractual relations in various fields have been established by us by now with very many young independent states. Firmly established in them is the principle of equality in relations of all states--big and small, developed and developing ones.

Another important sector of the Soviet Union's foreign policy activity is the struggle for disarmament and for ending the arms race. How can the accord of states to take some or other practical steps for curbing the arms race be formalized other than through international agreements? And a number of agreements have been concluded in recent years in a large measure due to our initiative. They are in a positive direction in connection with the objective of disarmament and ending the arms race.

The Soviet Union has to its credit also a whole number of bilateral treaties curbing the arms race in some or other way. I will call [as received] here in the first place, for understandable reasons, the treaty of unlimited duration with the USA on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems, as well as the interim agreement on certain measures with respect to limitation of strategic offensive arms, which was prolonged in 1977 and continues in effect under the accord reached for the period of the talks being under way to conclude a new treaty.

The significance must be also noted of the sealing in contractual form of the political and territorial realities, which have taken shape as a result of the Second World War and post-war developments. Great is the role in this matter of the treaty between the USSR and the FRG concluded in 1970, Andrey Gromyko said.

He noted that this treaty has been again considerably substantiated and developed in the joint declaration on furthering detente, goodneighbourliness and strengthening peace and in the accord on developing and deepening long-term cooperation between the USSR and FRG in the field of economy and industry, which were signed in the course of Leonid Brezhnev's visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, that was politically extremely important and fruitful.

A special place among international documents, Andrey Gromyko said, is held by the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. This document, that is without a precedent in the history of international relations, is a major success for the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, of all the European socialist countries. It is at the same time a major success for all the participants in the all-European conference. We are for respect and implementation in full of the final act by all the states, which put their signatures under it, that nobody should try to distort the meaning of this document, to belittle its tremendous weight.

Andrey Gromyko noted the growing significance of international agreements under the conditions of detente and said: the Soviet Union, the brother socialist countries struggle and continue struggling so that a most reliable international legal foundation be placed under the policy of detente. And the whole series of international acts with the Soviet Union's participation, precisely meets this aim.

Characteristically, that along with the process of detente, the political meaning of these acts was increasing. Thus, in particular, the jointly adopted Soviet-French documents, seal not only the principles of mutual relations, which is, of course, important in itself when the point at issue are states with different social systems, but also the striving of both countries for the development of friendship and cooperation between each other, their intention to forge ahead acting jointly or in parallel for the benefit of detente.

While some people in the West are now starting noisy, if not hysterical, campaigns against detente, are again trying to push the world to brinkmanship, it must be taken into consideration that the treaties and agreements concluded in recent years also play their role in countering those intrigues of adversaries of peace and cooperation, in consolidating detente, said Andrey Gromyko.

Today, he said, as perhaps never before is topical the fundamental principle of international law saying that treaties shall be observed. Although it is an old principle, it is not becoming less valuable with the course of time. It is sealed actually in all the most important international documents--from the U.N. Charter to the final act of the all-European conference.

Over the sixty years of the history of its relations with foreign countries, the Soviet Union has proved to be a conscientious, irreproachably punctual and consistent partner in meeting its international commitments. Touching upon the results of work of the special session on disarmament of the UN General Assembly, Andrey Gromyko noted that the USSR put forward at it a wide package of initiatives in this direction that are far reaching and cover all the main aspects of the disarmament problem--from ending the production of nuclear weapons, gradual reduction and subsequent full liquidation of its stockpiles, to such a major political issue, closely linked with disarmament, as the question of concluding a treaty on non-use of force in relations between states, and a peaceful settlement of all disputes between them.

But there are still quite a few open and hidden opponents of detente in the world, the speaker noted. This concerns in the first place, of course, the militaristic circles of the Western powers. Talk of arms control, under cover of which a further build up of war arsenals is going on--that is what one can hear more often than not from representatives of these powers.

The present Peking leadership is acting in league with the most rabid opponents of disarmament. It, it can be said, is elbowing others in order to take a place in the first ranks of opponents of any agreement towards disarmament, or at least toward curbing the arms race.

Andrey Gromyko said in conclusion that the draft law is a result of a highly scrupulous, fundamental preparatory work that was carried out by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Commissions for Foreign Affairs and Legislative proposals of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities and the USSR Council of Ministers. It can be said with good reason that the new law will be a contribution to strengthening detente and international cooperation.

Soviet Threat Refuted

LD060820Y Moscow TASS in English 0803 GMT 6 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpts] Moscow, July 6, TASS--USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko has addressed today the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which is currently being held in the Moscow Kremlin. Touching upon the problem of East-West relations, Andrey Gromyko said among other things:

An invention about some "Soviet threat," that the USSR is allegedly striving to impinge on the balance of forces that has taken shape and is based on a certain military parity of the two world systems, has been recently set going. It must be noted for that matter, the Western figures often admit in the lobby that such a balance remains, and that it has not been violated. But nevertheless when speaking in public, they have recourse to a deception of peoples.

An attempt is made to use thoroughly false reproaches of this kind against the Soviet Union for impeding the talks on some issues, which have long being held, in connection with putting an end to the arms race and with disarmament, including the Soviet-American talks, the Soviet minister stressed.

BREZHNEV REPORT ON AGRICULTURE AT CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

LD032122Y Moscow TASS in English 2050 GMT 3 Jul 78 LD

["'On the Further Development of USSR Agriculture.' Report Delivered by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee on July 3, 1978"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, July 3, TASS--Follows the full text of the report delivered by L.I. Brezhnev at the plenary meeting of the CPSU CC:

Comrades,

This plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, devoted to the further development of agriculture, has assembled at a historic time--in the opening year of the seventh decade of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The October Revolution holds a special place in the solution of agrarian problems, in the destinies of the peasantry of our country, and not only our country for that matter. The working masses, all progressives of the world know that the victory of the Socialist Revolution in Russia simultaneously started the deliverance of the peasantry, the numerically biggest toiling class of the globe, from oppression, political rightlessness and ignorance.

For the first time in history running into many centuries, the party of Lenin actually delivered the peasantry from exploitation and poverty and put it on the socialist road. Our enemies concocted many fables of all sorts about the past and present of the Soviet countryside. However, no matter what they may say or write, the history of the 20th century, the heroic path traversed by the Soviet peasantry and also the one covered by the peasantry of other socialist countries have convincingly shown that for the correct and just solution of the peasant question there is one right road--the road of building socialism in the countryside; there is one genuine science--the Marxist-Leninist teaching on the agrarian-peasant question.

It is significant, comrades, that just over a month ago we marked the 55th anniversary of the publication of one of Lenin's main agrarian works, the outstanding fruit of Lenin's thought--his article "On Cooperation", in which he indicated the working masses of the countryside the high road to a new life. The peasantry of our country was the first to embark upon this road. Today Lenin's ideas about cooperation inspire millions of peasants abroad, particularly in the countries which have cast off the yoke of colonialism.

Lenin's teaching on the agrarian question and the ideas and principles of his cooperation plan have been and remain in the arsenal of our party. The CPSU invariably proceeds from them and develops them further with due regard for prevailing historical conditions. The teaching and behests of Lenin will continue to be our true compass in shaping and carrying out plans for the further development of agriculture.

Agrarian Policy of the Party in Action: Main Results

Comrades,

The present agrarian policy of our party stems, as is known, from the March 1965 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. It scientifically reflects the new conditions and requirements of socialist society. The present agrarian policy is the Leninist strategy and tactics the party pursues in the field of agriculture under developed socialism.

Keeping firmly to the course it mapped out, the party has solved a wide range of agrarian problems. The agriculture of the country has made big steps forward in economic and social development. This was recognised and highly appraised by the supreme forum of our party--the 25th CPSU Congress. The congress, as is known, also determined the tasks of the party for developing agriculture in the tenth five-year peri .

More than two years have passed since the congress. Presenting today the question about the development of agriculture for consideration by this plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, the Politbureau proceeded from the following:

First, to concentrate the attention of the party on the solution of the most important problems of agricultural production and the abolition of its bottlenecks, the more effective use of the means we have invested and invest in the growth of this sector; to mobilise the party and the people for the successful fulfilment of the five-year plan as regards both increasing the output and purchases of farm produce and carrying out the programme for strengthening the material and technical basis of the countryside.

Second, to establish the main directions of the further development of agriculture and sectors ensuring its industrialisation and scientific and technical progress, and to discuss certain questions of the economics and the improvement of the planning and social development of the countryside. This will be of key importance for elaborating the 11th Five-Year Plan and the successful fulfilment of the party's task of turning agriculture into a highly developed sector of the economy.

As you know, last year the Politbureau set up a competent commission to promote all-round, thorough preparations for this plenary meeting of the Central Committee.

What are, above all, the main results of implementing our agrarian policy since the March 1965 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee?

Tackling a strategic task--to ensure the reliable provision of the country with food-stuffs and its industry with agricultural raw materials--the party saw its prime duty in considerably strengtheing the material and technical basis of agriculture by stepping up the rates of mechanisation, chemisation and land melioration, and the integrated solution of questions connected with the development of this sector.

Everything possible has been done to intensify agricultural production. In the first place, we have changed the approach to investments in agriculture. We treat this matter as the cornerstone for the further development of agricultural production and we have made it a rule to systematically increase these investments as much as possible. The party has decided to redistribute the funds allocated for the national economy, ensured a sharp increase in capital investments in agricultural production and a considerable rise in the share of agriculture in overall investments. Whereas under the 7th Five-Year Plan, that is before the March plenary meeting, the share of agriculture constituted 20 per cent. It was 23 per cent under the 8th Five-Year Plan, 26 per cent under the 9th Five-Year Plan and more than 27 per cent under the 10th Five-Year Plan (target).

In this period, we have done much to build an up-to-date industrial basis for agriculture. Earlier we practically did not have such specialised self-contained big sectors as water conservance and land melioration, engineering for livestock and fodder production, agricultural construction, the mixed feed and microbiological industry. Nowadays they do exist.

The manufacture of tractors and agricultural machinery, the production of mineral fertilisers and processing industry have also been greatly developed. All they together constitute a growing industrial complex aimed at ensuring the steady growth of agricultural production.

The basic production assets in the socialised sector of agriculture have reached 183,000 million roubles, 2.8 times above the level of 1965. The machine-and-tractor fleet of the collective and state farms has been renewed almost fully, it has changed qualitatively, and the share of up-to-date machines of greater engine capacity, load carrying capacity and productivity has risen. The power capacities of agricultural enterprises have increased in these years from 232 million horse powers to 525 million horse powers, i.e. by more than two times over, and the amount of electrical power available per worker at collective and state farms has increased by 2.5 times. The electrification of agriculture proceeds vigorously.

The party has attached great significance to chemisation and land melioration. It would not be an exaggeration to say that up till now neither our country nor any other has known of such huge scales of their development. We have raised chemisation and melioration to the level of a major task of national importance. Last year our agriculture received 77 million tons of mineral fertilizers as against 27 million tons in 1965. Their production will continue to grow in order to meet fully the requirements of the farming industry. The country has nearly doubled the area of irrigated and drained land, and nowadays our collective and state farms have more than 27 million hectares of such land. About 40,000 million roubles will be invested in melioration under the 10th Five-Year Plan.

Such is, in brief, the result of the great job of work which has been done in these years to strengthen the material and technical basis of agriculture. Of course, we still have many concerns and bottlenecks in this field and we fully realise that in the future too it will be necessary to devote maximum attention to the provision of agriculture with materials and technology in all directions--both quantitatively and, more important still, qualitatively.

Simultaneously, it will be necessary to raise further demands as regards everything which concerns the skilful and effective use of the created basis. Today this is one of the prime tasks of rural party organisations, all workers of agriculture.

The development of the material and technical basis is closely connected with the training of manpower, particularly specialists and machine operators. Considerable work has been done in this respect too in the past period. Nowadays, the situation there is as follows: The affairs of the collective and state farms are managed by the educated cadres of specialists and technology is handled by a big army of machine operators. Specialists with a higher and secondary education account for 93.5 percent of the chairmen of collective farms and for 98.3 percent of the directors of state farms. More than 1,600,000 specialists are employed in agriculture nowadays, and the number of machine operators has risen to 4,225,000. Today every fifth worker in agriculture is a machine operator. Technical progress has given rise to a big number of other categories of educated, qualified workers in the countryside.

As it was noted at the 25th CPSU Congress, growing deliveries of machinery and other material resources have made it possible to raise noticeably labour productivity at collective and state farms. According to the USSR Central Statistical Board, in 1977 per-worker productivity was 169 percent compared with the level of 1965, which is tantamount to saving the efforts of 16 million people a year.

The CPSU Central Committee has paid great attention to economic measures for the growth of agriculture, particularly to improving the planning of production and purchases of farm output, price formation, crediting, and labour remuneration. We are working for the entire great diversity of economic relations at enterprises and on the scale of the agro-industrial complex as a whole to create the commonness, the unity of the interests of the state, collective farms and the immediate producers. Lenin regarded the correct combination of the interests of all sides to the production and sale of goods as a main principle of socialist economic management. It must be said that the economics of the collective and state farms and the material wellbeing of agricultural workers began to improve noticeably already in the first years after the March plenary meeting of the Central Committee. In 1977 the gross income of the collective farms was double the average yearly figure for the seventh five-year-period. On the whole, the state farm system has been operating profitably in the past 12 years.

In the prevailing conditions the development of the productive forces of agriculture is connected particularly closely with the solution of the social questions of life in the countryside. For long years, due to a number of reasons, we were not able to duly regulate the system of labour remuneration in the countryside. At the present stage we have found a more suitable solution to this important question. I have in mind primarily the transition to the guaranteed payment for the work of the collective farmers. Key importance is attached to the measures of the party aimed at reducing the differnces in the wages of agricultural and industrial workers. In the past 12 years the labour remuneration of the collective farmers has gone up by 100 per cent and that of state farm workers by 90 per cent.

Major undertakings have been effected during these years in the field of pensions and social insurance for the collective farmers. To be more specific, I shall cite the following figures. In 1977 the pensions and allowances to the collective farmers from the centralised all-union fund exceeded 4,000 million roubles, four-odd times more than in 1965. There is no need to prove how important these measures are, measures which concern millions, particularly those who devoted all their lives and labour to the common cause--the development and strengthening of the collective farm system.

The growing standards of the material wellbeing, culture and everyday life of the rural population is an indicative feature of our time. Here are generalised data on this score. In 1965-1977 the aggregate income of the family of the collective farmer grew by 80 per cent. In the same period per capita commodity sales in the countryside rose from 222 roubles to 492 roubles a year, more than two times over. The investments of the state and the collective farms in non-production projects, that is, mostly in the social sphere, exceeded 40,000 million roubles in these years, amounting to three quarters of all investments made in this field since the inception of the Soviet state.

The task of the party is not to slacken attention to and display a constant concern for, the further growth of the living standards of agricultural workers and making our villages ever more comfortable.

End production results are the main criterion of all economic activity. What are these results in agriculture?

I shall begin, as usual, with gross output. In the past seven years (1971-1977) the average yearly volume of gross output reached 116,000 million roubles as against 81,400 million roubles in the years preceding the March plenary meeting. The per-hectare yields and the output of all crops increased. This can be seen from the table below.

Gross Output and Productivity of Crops (Annual Average by All Categories of Farms)

	Gross Output (Million Tons)		Productivity (Centners per Hectare)	
	1959-1965	1971-1977	1959-1965	1971-1977
Grain	128.1	189.6	10.3	15.1
Raw Cotton	4.84	7.91	20.6	27.7
Sugar Beet (Industrial)	56.8	81.9	168	229
Sunflower	4.62	5.86	10.4	12.9
Flax Fibre (Thousand Tons)	404	466	2.6	3.8
Potatoes	82.7	88.2	94	114
Other Vegetables	16.5	23.3	113	141

Favourable trends could be observed in the development of animal husbandry as well. The average annual gross output of livestock products over the same period increased by 45 percent. The number and productivity of livestock on collective and state farms increased. The output of meat increased from an average of 9.2 million tons in 1959-1965 to 14 million tons in 1971-1977, milk from 63.9 to 88.8 million tons respectively, and eggs up to 53,500 million, an increase of 90 percent.

These figures illustrate the big work being actively done today to intensify livestock farming. Nevertheless we must take even more radical measures in order to speed up progress in this field.

Agriculture has a great role to play in the practical implementation of the party's general policy aimed at substantially raising the people's standard of living. If we assess the results achieved in this field from this viewpoint, it will be quite clear that the living standards of the Soviet people are steadily rising, including the extent to which we meet their most vital needs, that is, the needs in foodstuffs and consumer goods.

I have an official report by the Central Statistical Board of the USSR in front of me. It says, for instance, that the sales of meat products to the population through the state and cooperative trade network almost doubled between 1965 and 1977 and came to an average of 10 million tons a year.

Per capita consumption of products is an important, although not the sole, indicator of living standards. We have made progress in this field too. Per capita consumption of meat and meat products with the growth of the population by 28 million increased by 16 kilograms and came to 57 kilograms in 1977.

Consumption of milk and dairy products, eggs, vegetables, gourds and fruit has noticeably grown. The consumption of bread products and potatoes is steadily falling, a fact which testifies to an improved diet of the population. The consumption of non-food products made of agricultural raw materials, such as cotton, woollen and flax fabrics, also has been steadily growing.

This situation is encouraging but does not make us complacent. We realise well that there is much room for improvement in this field. The Politbureau of the Central Committee and the government are aware of this and never relax their efforts to meet to a fuller extent the growing needs of the Soviet people.

Raise in Every Possible Way the Level of Agricultural Production

Comrades, the results we have achieved and the experience we have gained in managing agriculture under present-day conditions convincingly confirm the scientific soundness and vitality of the Leninist agrarian policy pursued by the CPSU. One may come to a logical conclusion that the policy formulated by the March 1965 plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and elaborated at subsequent party plenums and congresses must be continued.

The main task we set for agriculture is to achieve comprehensive and dynamic development of all its sectors and to ensure stable supplies of foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials for the country, so that the growth in their production will secure a further substantial rise in the people's standard of living. Simultaneously we must redouble our efforts in tackling the task of obliterating distinctions between the material, cultural and living conditions in city and countryside.

To this end, in 1981-1985 we must ensure an annual average grain harvest of 238 to 243 million tons and by 1990 increase it to an average of one ton per capita. Meat production should increase to 19.5 million tons by the end of the next five-year period. The output of milk and eggs must be increased substantially this will make it possible to increase per capita consumption of the most valuable foodstuffs and to come much closer to scientifically rational norms by the end of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan.

I would like to emphasize that we have set fairly high targets for the output of major agricultural products and for their absolute rates of growth in the next five years. We must also ensure a growth in the material and technical resources of agriculture in order to attain those targets.

This applies to capital investments above all. We must firmly adhere to the party's fundamental policy of steadily increasing capital investments above all. We must firmly adhere to the party's fundamental policy of steadily increasing capital investments in agriculture. Consequently, their share in the overall volume of resource allocated for the development of the country's economy under the Eleventh Five-Year Plan should not be lower of the one [as received] achieved. The State Planning Committee of the USSR must take this into account in drawing up the new five-year plan.

Comrades, although today's plenum is concerned with agriculture, we always remember about the leading role of our industry. We invest and shall continue to invest in it as much as it needs.

The experience of the past years shows that the capacity of the industries servicing the countryside must be increased at a faster pace. So, the new five-year plan should make adeuqate allocations for the development of agricultural machine-building, the production of fertilizer and chemical plant protection agents, the processing industry and all other industries related to the agro-industrial complex. This approach fully corresponds to the directive of the twenty-fifth congress of the party.

Our task in the next five-year period is to complete comprehensive mechanisation of cultivation of all major crops and substantially raise the level of mechanisation in animal farming. To this end, we must continue to do everything to increase supplies of tractors, lorries, combine harvesters and other agricultural machines to the farms. The output of tractors and lorries in this country is growing and agriculture should receive a substantial portion of this increment.

Simultaneously we shall have to tackle in a more radical way the problem of quality of agricultural machines. You know that shortcomingssin this field were criticised at the October 1976 plenum of the Central Committee. Nevertheless, things are looking up slowly. Production of antiquated models of tractors and mnay other types of machines for crop cultivation and livestock breeding, which do not meet modern standards in terms of productivity, economy and reliability, continues. There is still a serious lagging behind in the production of systems of machines for loading tractors and introduction of new techniques in production. So, the plans for the remainder years of the current five-year plan and the 1981-1985 period should provide for a number of radical measures to raise the technical level of agricultural machine-building.

This applies above all to the structure of tractor production. The task is to supply collective and state farms with efficient and powerful tractors with all the necessary mounted and trailer machines and implements. Here we attach great importance to speeding up the retooling of the Volgograd, Pavlodar and Lipetsk tractor plants.

In the field of combine-harvester-building, we shall have to carry out urgent measures to modernise grain combine-harvesters manufactured at Soviet plants in order to rectify faults in their design, and increase their productivity. In the next few years we also must begin production of more powerful combine-harvesters of improved design, taking into account foreign know-how. Particular importance should be attached to increase in the output of self-propelled and trailer windrowers and machines for gathering the non-grain part of the harvest.

An important trend in agricultural machine-building is to ensure full mechanisation of fodder production. Factories making fodder harvesting and processing machines must be modernised and new powerful ones should be built, enlisting other industries to this important cause.

The problems of transportation of agricultural cargoes remains very acute. The volume of such carryings is steadily growing, while the lorry pool in the countryside is expanding slowly. Moroever, farms receive as a rule lorries that are not designed for carrying agricultural cargoes. However difficult, the problem of transport for the countryside must be tackled in a radical way. Specifically, we must organise production of high-capacity and special-purpose lorries for agriculture.

There are many other problems involved in the further mechanisation of agriculture. I have no time to report them all in detail to the plenum. At the same time, it is quite clear that industrialisation of farming is one of our major tasks. We have to admit that in term of fixed assets per worker and electricity power supply per worker agriculture is still way behind industry.

During preparations for the plenum the CPSU Central Committee made a thorough study of all these problems and took two decisions which we believe are very important. It adopted resolutions on measures further to develop comprehensive mechanisation and to supply collective and state farms with highly efficient technology for crop cultivation, animal husbandry and also fodder production. You have received these resolutions.

We must continue to increase exactingness in improving the use of all machines supplied to agriculture. We must not tolerate the situation where many collective and state farms do not observe rules of maintenance and storage of machines. Many machines stand idle because of inadequate repair and maintenance. Many machines wear out and are discarded before time.

There is no strict accounting of consumption of fuel and lubricants. There is a shortage of machine operators and the coefficient of shift operation of tractors is low. All this increases production costs and causes great damage to the collective-and state-farm economy and the country as a whole.

Last year the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a special resolution on the improvement of the use of agricultural machinery. The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Water Conservancy, Soyuzselkhoztekhnika, all local economic and government agencies, and party and other public organizations must work more vigorously to carry out the measures outlines in that resolution.

Among the measures aimed at intensifying agricultural production most serious attention should be given to the further development of production of mineral fertilizers and means of plant protection. No rapid growth can be achieved in agricultural production without them. It would be wrong to say that our chemical industry is not advanced enough. Quite the opposite. We may take pride in the fact that in a short space of time our country has built a powerful industry for chemicalisation of agriculture. The chemical industry can now cope with more large-scale problems.

Taking account of the planned output of crops and livestock products, supplies of mineral fertilizers for agriculture in the next five-year period are expected to come to 135-140 million tons and fodder additives to seven million tons. But quantity is not the only thing that matters. Emphasis should be laid on improvement of the quality of products. The increase of capacity and growth in the production of mineral fertilizer should be mainly ensured by an increase in the output of phosphate, concentrated and compound fertilizers. A more effective solution should be found for the problem of lime production, particularly for the needs of the Non-Black Soil Zone.

Special mention should be made of herbicides and pesticides. Supply still fails to meet the needs of agriculture. The output is very low and the range is very limited in the production of herbicides for the treatment of plantations of rice, sugar beet, potatoes, cotton and vegetables. Herbicides for soy beans and sunflower are not produced at all. This results in substantial losses in agriculture. This situation should be recitified. We must work out a state programme for herbicides, plan research in this field, build production capacity and also extend the production and application of microbiological means of plant protection.

We are doing everything to increase supplies of mineral fertiliser for agriculture. At the same time, we must demand more of farm managers and agricultural agencies as regards the use of mineral fertilizers and also maximum accumulation and putting in soil of organic fertilizers.

Big losses and even damage of fertilisers are tolerated at many collective farms and state farms, agrochemical rules of their application are violated, and what is most important, there is still no due return. A role of no small importance in all this is played by the dissociation and insufficent effectiveness of the agrochemical service. The country practically still has no uniform, scientifically-organised system of agrochemical services. In some places chemicalisation is dealt with by Selkhoztekhnika, in others, by inter-farm associations, while in certain places, this is let to take its course altogether.

To put such an important matter in order, it is expedient to concentrate agrochemical service both centrally and locally in the system of agricultural bodies, handing over to them the whole production basis earmarked for this.

Far more attention should be paid to agricultural aviation, which already today plays a significant role in the drive for increased crop yields of fields. It carries out more than 30 percent of the total amount of work in the application of chemicals. This is a promising line, and our task is to develop and strengthen the material and technical basis of agricultural aviation.

Land improvement should be promoted as perseveringly as ever. The central task here should be the better use of ameliorated lands, and the erasure of the lag tolerated in the economic development. Crops on irrigated land frequently still differ little from the results of dry farming. This is inadmissible. Large sums of money are invested in land improvement, a sufficiently strong production basis has been set up, and more cadres have been trained. This entitles us to demand that the workers of agriculture and water economy ensure a high return of output from the irrigated and drained lands. In the future, it is necessary to ensure only the integrated development of newly ameliorated areas. Wherever it is possible, they should be concentrated in specialised husbandries or inter-farm associations for the organisation of really effective farming.

Our science should make a big contribution to the solution of the tasks of further development of agriculture. Shortly after the 25th congress of the party, measures were drawn up, with the extensive participation of scientists, for enhancing the effectiveness of agricultural science and strengthening its ties with production. The resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the government adopted on this question defines the main directions along which science should develop with the purpose of achieving an uplift in agriculture.

Today I would like only to stress that we should constantly increase our attention to the scientific research institutions, to achieve higher results of their work, and improve in every possible way the introduction of scientific achievements in production, by putting it on a good, planned basis. It is very important that, not only the workers of agricultural science, but also the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the academies of sciences of the union republics, scientists in all branches of knowledge continue to take an active part in the elaboration of many-sided problems of acceleration of scientific and technological progress in agriculture. The upsurge of agriculture, as we have noted more than once, is a matter of the entire people, it is a common concern.

The whole course of economic development of the country and the steady rise of the material wellbeing of the people now move to the fore the task of a faster uplift of livestock farming. It is quite natural that the growth of public welfare in recent times has brought about an increased demand precisely for livestock products. This has given rise to a situation where, in spite of a noticeable increase in the production of meat, milk and other products and improvement in the organisation of work in the sector, the present level of development of livestock farming does not meet the swiftly-growing requirements.

The Central Committee of the party analysed in great detail the questions of the further development of livestock farming and drew up a set of measures for increased production of meat, milk and other products. Resolutions were adopted on a number of questions connected with the development of the sector, and the members of the Central Committee had the possibility of studying them. The point is, by increasing the stock, to raise everywhere and as fast as possible the productivity of all kinds of cattle and poultry, to go over to intensive livestock farming techniques and to turn it into a modern, highly effective sector.

The achievement of a new upsurge in livestock farming demands a steep turn in attention to this sector by the whole party, by all our ministries and departments, by the leaders of the collective farms, by all the rural working people.

The immediate task is increasing the production of meat. For its solution it is necessary to make full use of all our possibilities and reserves, to work for the growth of production of all kinds of meat.

In most of the areas of the country, the solution of the meat problem is connected, above all, with increased production of beef. This is stipulated, on the one hand, by the rising demand of the population for beef and, on the other, by the specific features of the structure of our feed resources and natural conditions. We have extensive areas of meadows and pastures and great potential for the production of coarse and succulent fodder. Food industry interprises provide a good deal of by-products. All this can be used for raising and fattening cattle with the greatest return.

Of all the reserves in raising beef production, that of increased weight of slaughtered cattle and reduced periods of fattening should be singled out especially. The task was recently set of boosting weight conditions to 350-370 kilograms. Many regions and republics have coped with it successfully. The average weight of cattle sold by the collective farms and state farms to the state has reached 355 kilograms in the country as a whole, and 400-440 kilograms in a number of regions and republics. On account of this, the country today receives additionally more than one million tons of meat a year.

However, a considerable part of cattle comes to the meat-packing plants virtually without fattening, with a low weight and poor fattiness. Many calves are slaughtered in some areas. It is necessary, as quick as possible, to effect everywhere the transition to intensive cattle-raising techniques and to deliver the animals for meat only after they are fattened to a weight of 400-450 kilograms. I think that it will be possible for many areas, whole regions, territories and republics to solve this task already in the current five-year plan period. It is necessary in the localities to carry out concrete work without delay, to determine where and how the cattle of every collective farm and state farm will be fattened intensively, either on specialised farms and in areas of their own husbandry or at inter-farm establishments.

Valuable experience in transferring meat production to intensive techniques has been accumulated in Voronezh and Orenburg regions, individual regions of the Ukrainian SSR, in Moldavia, and other places. Specialised cattle-fattening enterprises here already now supply more than half of the beef. The question arises: Are their conditions better than those of the overwhelming majority of other republics and regions? It is not a question of conditions, but of the standard of organisational and managerial work.

In order to solve the beef production problem radically, it is necessary to work more energetically in setting up an independent sector of specialised meat cattle-farming, making use of pasture lands and establishing sound fodder production with the help of irrigation. Many farms in Kazakhstan, in the Urals, in Siberia and the Volga area are taking this line and it is yielding good results. Big possibilities exist on the newly irrigated lands in the republics of Central Asia, in the south and in the Non-Black-Earth zone of the RSFSR, and in Belorussia. An extensive programme for the development of meat cattle-farming has been drawn up and is being carried out in the Ukraine. It is necessary, in the near future, to develop this sector in such a way that will turn it into a major source of ensurance of high-quality meat for the country.

The intensive development of the hog industry is equally important in the buildup of meat production. It holds a significant place in the shaping of the country's meat resources. Much has been done in recent years in introducing progressive technologies in the production of pork. Large-scale pig-rearing enterprises have been set up at the state farms and collective farms and on an inter-farm basis. The experience of their work shows that the transition to industrialised pork production makes it possible to increase the gains and cut the fattening periods, and to obtain output with the least expenditure of fodder, labour and money. It is necessary, within our possibilities, to continue creating such enterprises anew or on the basis of modernisation of working farms, to consistently transfer swine breeding to an industrial basis.

However, I would like once again to warn against mistakes. In promoting this line, it would be wrong to slacken attention to pork production at non-specialised farms. Many of them have a good basis and established personnel for this, and can fatten hogs not only on grain, but also on potatoes, root vegetables, and other succulent and green fodder. All this has to be used thriftily with the object of increasing meat production and obtaining piglets both for public needs and for sale to the population.

As you know, an enlarged decision was recently adopted on the development of meat poultry-farming. It opens big possibilities for the replenishment of meat resources. It is intended to approximately double the share of poultry meat. Up till recent times, priority in poultry breeding was given to egg production, and the problem of supplying the population with eggs has been solved in the main. The funds of this sector are now being concentrated on increased production of poultry meat. Large-scale enterprises for the raising of chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese for meat will be put into operation in the next few years. At the same time, a good deal can also be done at operating mechanised poultry farms through their modernisation and expansion of capacities. It is necessary also to make wider use of the possibilities for the raising of boilers on the basis of cooperation of the mechanised poultry farms with the collective farms and state farms, as is being done in the Crimean and Dnepropetrovsk regions and in the Krasnodar territory.

Attention should be paid to the large reserves of sheep-raising. There are some successes in the development of this sector--the stock has grown and its qualitative composition has improved, and the production and purchase of work, goat's hair and karakul have increased. However, in a number of republics and regions, sheep farming is growing very slowly, whereas it is being curtailed altogether in the Non-Black-Earth Zone of the RSFSR, and in individual areas of the Ukraine, Belorussia, Moldavia and the Baltic republics. This is wrong, erroneous. We have all conditions to produce more, far more mutton, wool, sheepskins and furs and to meet more fully the country's requirements of these products.

We should in the future, too, receive the bulk of mutton and wool on pasture fodder. It is precisely sheep breeding that makes it possible to use the enormous territories of our steppe and semi-desert fodder lands with the greatest return. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen more energetically the production basis of sheep-raising farms and to continue work in irrigating and improving pasture grounds. It is especially important to create transferable, reserve fodder stocks in these areas.

There should be another approach to the development of sheep farming in areas with large ploughed-up lands. It is necessary here to make wider use of industrial technology, both in the upkeep of sheep and in fodder production.

In this respect, the Stavropol territory, Rostov, Yaroslavl and Belgorod regions and the Mari Autonomous Republic have good experience.

A big job lies ahead in the further increase of milk production. Though a rather big step forward has been made in this direction in recent years, the qualitative showings of the sector remain low. The milk yields are rising slowly, there are cases of barrenness, and the specific expenditures of labour and fodder--meaning the cost of output as well--are virtually not dropping. Special attention should be paid to this aspect of work of the dairies. It is intended, in the near future, to bring the milk yield at the collective farm and state farms up to an average for the country of at least 3,000 kilograms, while in the areas of developed dairy farming, where 3,000-3,500 kilograms are already being received, the task is to reach the yield target of 4,000-5,000 kilograms of milk.

In conditions of growing intensification of livestock farming and its transfer onto an industrial footing, the role of selection and pure-strain stock-breeding is enhanced immeasurably. The Ministry of Agriculture and the All-Union Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences are faced with considerable work in creating new and improving existing breeds, strains and hybrids of animals, expanding the network of breeding-stock farms, and using more purposefully the resources of highly-productive cattle and poultry.

Examining the measures for the development of collectively-owned livestock farming, I wish to underline once more that we should also care for the personal holdings of the collective farmers, workers and employees. This is a vital source of replenishment of food resources. The new Constitution of the USSR says that "the state and collective farms provide assistance to citizens in working their small-holdings." The subsidiary farms of industrial enterprises, public catering establishments and other organisations should also play a useful role in the improvement of supplies.

In order to replenish food resources, it is necessary to deal more concretely with the production of fish through the better use of local water bodies. The possibilities here are practically unlimited. It would be useful for the corresponding bodies to draw up undertakings for the development of fish farming on a national scale.

All that we want to have from stock-breeding--more meat, milk and other products--all this, in the final analysis, depends on adequate supply of varied and high quality feeds. It cannot be said that these questions have been given little attention in our work. But the problem of fodder production has not received a cardinal, overall solution yet.

Fodder raising still proceeds along primitive lines at many collective and state farms. In adopting modern processes and the achievements of science and technology, this sector is not progressing as well as other branches. Good facilities for storing feeds are few, and this leads to great losses and an impairment of their quality. According to All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences data, the loss of nutritive substances in feeds, caused by primitive methods of their preparation and the unsatisfactory conditions of storage on many farms, averages more than 20-30 percent for hay, silo and hayage. The protein problem remains unsolved. The mixed feeds industry is poorly developed. All this bespeaks the necessity of major steps to organise the production of fodder, to create in fact a modern fodder production industry. By raising the quality of feeds and observing the established tachniques for their production, it is possible to obtain considerable extra livestock output resources.

Proceeding from this, during the preparations to the Central Committee's plenary meeting, decisions for the overall development of fodder production in the country were worked out and adopted. They cover the space of time till 1985 and envisage measures for improving field fodder-production and natural meadows and pastures and increasing the application of fertilizers in fodder-cropping, as well as a considerable amount of land-reclamation work. Measures have been outlined for the mechanisation of all the processes in fodder production, the introduction of advanced methods in the stocking up and preparation of feeds and the conversion of this industry to an industrial basis.

The relevant ministries and departments are to increase within a short time the production and supply of chemical farm preservatives, polymeric film, feed additives, mineral salts and means for the treatment of straw with a view to raising its value as fodder. To improve the quality of feeds, an extensive programme will be carried out in building modern storage facilities on farms for hayage, silo, hay and root crops, as well as fodder yards, and a feed quality control service will be established.

Great importance is being attached to measures of an organisational nature. The production of fodder must be made into a more specialised sector at the collective and state farms themselves. There should be created interfarm associations for the production of fodder, and agro-industrial integration must be given a boost.

Much attention has been focussed on the problem of feed protein. I want to reemphasise that protein deficiencies in rations result in an enormous overexpenditure of feeds. Provisions are made that collective and state farms will expand their sown areas and increase their yields of grain, vetch and oil-producing crops, lucerne, clover and rape in the next few years. For the supply of perennial grass seed to areas of the country where their growing is faced with difficulties, it has been deemed expedient to organize the production of seed, especially of lucerne, in specialised farms and associations located mainly on irrigated and other reclaimed lands.

As you know, a decision on soya was adopted recently. We regard it as a first step in organising the large-scale production of this valuable crop. The possibilities for expanding the area under it, especially on irrigated lands, must be explored and the technology of cultivation perfected.

Our chemical-industry workers and workers in the microbiological, pulp and paper, fishing, meat and milk, food, medical and several other industries must make their contribution to the solution of the problem of protein. Appropriate assignments, as well as allocations of capital investments, are being given to them.

We are seeking to ensure that all the grain going for the needs of stock-breeding is fed after treatment and in a balanced way. The accelerated development of both the state-owned mixed feeds industry and the production of mixed feeds in state and collective farms and interfarm enterprises is provided for towards this end.

Here it must be noted that an absolutely wrong tendency is observable in a number of places. Some of the leaders at farm, district and even regional levels do not take proper care of increasing the production of hay, silo, hayage and root crops and improving their quality. They attempt to make good the fodder shortages by the use of concentrates, often at the expense of grain from state reserves. As a result, the expenditure of grain to feed livestock grows excessively, while the use of other types of fodder even falls.

The responsibility of personnel for the supply of feeds to stock-breeding must be enhanced. This index should be one of the main yardsticks in evaluating work on the farm. There must be special attention given to how well stocked the farms are with their own feeds in summing up the results of socialist emulation and determine encouragement measures for executives and specialists.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee attaches great importance to measures pertaining to fodder production. The need for modern fodder raising as a specialized branch in the national economy becomes absolutely clear now. This matter is of great national significance. Accordingly, there must be devised a proper approach to the industry, with efficient fodder production planning introduced and plan targets backed materially and technologically.

We have always devoted exceptional attention to grain production. As you well know, the 25th Congress of the party designated grain production a top priority sector of work. In the first two years of the five-year period the average annual grain yields stood at 209.6 million tons against the targeted 210 million tons. Yet shortages of grain, especially feed grains, still occur. The demand for them grows more rapidly than production. The great variations in total grain output of individual years have an adverse effect on stock-breeding.

The proposed measures to advance mechanisation, chemicalisation and land-reclamation that I have reported above make it possible to produce grain more stably and to raise the yields of grain crops every year. This is the main road. The task being posed is to bring up grain yields to a national per-hectare average of 20 metric centners in the next five-year period, and for such areas as the Northern Caucasus, the Ukraine, Moldavia, Belorussia, the Baltic republics and some others it will be feasible to have per-hectare grain yields of 35-40 metric centners and more.

Fuller use should also be made of such a reserve as the area under grain crops in some regions. This particularly applies to the Non-Black-Earth Zone where it is possible to expand the grain strip of fields at the expense of less productive annual grasses and other crops.

Even more attention has to be paid to the cultivation of millet, buckwheat, rye and maize for grain production. A number of farms display an obvious underestimation of these crops.

The entire arsenal of agrotechnical methods must now be directed toward the obtaining of maximum grain yields, the raising of the soil fertility and the improvement of farming standards. All the potentialities and reserves should be utilized, and the work of local party, government and agricultural agencies, farm managers and specialists and ordinary workers of state and collective farms must be geared to this task.

Now I shall dwell on the questions of further advancement in some other branches of agricultural production, whose output is designated for the satisfaction of the growing requirements of the country.

A great deal of work is to be carried out in beet growing. Recently we adopted a detailed decision on this question, with which you obviously have already familiarized yourselves. In the next five-year period a considerable increase in gross sugar beet output is planned on the basis of higher yields to be obtained through the use of new techniques.

The capacities of sugar refineries will be expanded, enabling a reduction of the sugar refining season and a lowering of the losses of sugar in the period of beet storage and processing.

On the instructions of the Central Committee of the party the USSR Council of Ministers in conjunction with the local authorities is also working out goal-oriented programmes for raising the production of sunflower seed, cotton, potatoes, fruit and vegetables.

In the Eleventh Five-Year Plan period it is necessary to achieve a sharp increase in sunflower seed production. The yields of this crop must be raised, losses of seed in harvesting eliminated, the facilities for storage and processing more vigorously developed, and the deterioration of products prevented.

By the efforts of the party and the state and by the selfless work of cotton growers and land-reclamation workers, the country has built up a reliable base for the steady increase of cotton production. Its volumes should augment in the future as well. But the question now is not only that of quantitative indices of growth. The new task is to improve the quality of output and expand in every way the production of fine-fiber varieties. A high quality of cotton is the chief concern of all cotton growers of the country.

More attention has to be given to such products as potatoes and vegetables. I mean not only the need for their greater production; it does grow, even though not so rapidly as one would like. Speaking of vegetables, the most important thing here is, I believe, to complete the conversion of vegetable growing to irrigation as soon as possible, reduce harvest losses, ensure the high quality of output, and strengthen the facilities for its processing and storage. To improve the supply of vegetables in the winter time, it is very important also to expand the production of vegetables through constructing hothouses and hotbeds, drawing in this matter on the experience of Moscow, Leningrad and other cities.

The practice of many of our regions, territories and republics and the experience of socialist countries show that the task of the supply of potatoes and vegetables can most successfully be solved on the basis of new organisational forms--cost-accounting associations, including specialised farms for the production of these items and enterprises for their storage and treatment. Proceeding from this, we must ask the USSR Council of Ministers to submit proposals on creating such an organisation in the immediate future.

A big role in our plans is assigned to the Non-Black-Earth Zone of the Russian Federation. I can state with satisfaction that the implementation of the comprehensive programme for the transformation of the agriculture of this vast territory is beginning to have a positive effect on the growth of production and the improvement of the working and living conditions of the farm workers. But still the work to develop the Non-Black-Earth Zone has not been given the scope and the efficiency that are necessary for the successful accomplishment of the tasks set.

Judging by the results of the two years of the five-year period, there is a lagging in the fulfillment of targets for land-reclamation and the improvement of soil fertility and the creation of the base for production, housing and socio-cultural construction. Little has been done to advance road-building. Work is slowly proceeding in moving families from small inhabited points to well-appointed settlements. Falling short of plan targets is the expansion of capacities for the plants of the flax processing, food and meat and dairy industries. Obviously, not all the workers of central, republic and local agencies have grasped the economic and political importance of the solution of the problems of the Non-Black-Earth Zone.

The ministries and departments which are responsible for the carrying out of work in the Non-Black-Earth Zone, as well as party, local government and economic bodies must do everything possible to overcome the lag and to fulfill the targets for the entire range of measures for transforming the agriculture of this territory on schedule in the future. Of course, the Eleventh Five-Year Plan will also give proper attention to the problems of the Non-Black-Earth-Zone.

Recently, as you know, I made a trip to areas of Siberia and the Far East. I shall say frankly it produced an indelible impression on me. I had the opportunity to meet and talk with working people, party activists and economic executives and to see at close quarters the work involved in the all-round development of natural resources and the advancement of productive forces of this vast region which plays an increasing role in the country's economy.

You know that an appropriate resolution on the results of the trip has been passed and that the necessary assignments have been given. Now I would like to touch only on some aspects of the agricultural production in Siberia and the Far East. The matter is that the problems of this industry have not yet found a proper place in the set of measures to develop the economy of that zone. Big funds have to be spent on the importation of agricultural products, many of which could successfully be grown locally. I think that the situation must be rectified so that the requirements of the population for such products as meat, milk, eggs, vegetables, potatoes and some others are met by local production to the maximum.

Comrades, at this plenary meeting we are defining the main objectives of the development of agricultural production for the future. Our immediate task now is to concentrate all efforts on the fulfillment and maximum overfulfillment of the targets of the Tenth Five-Year Plan. Despite the increase in the output of arable and livestock farming, the targets of the first two years of the five-year period, both for the total volume of production and for some of the items, have not been fully achieved.

Every year we allocate more and more capital investments and material resources for the development of agriculture. But it must be said that not everywhere do these investments yield proper returns in the form of output. Over the last two years the gross farm production was less than planned in a number of regions of the Russian Federation, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan, and in Moldavia, Latvia and Kirghizia. There are regions which registered a very small increment in output or even reduced its size. Among them are the Tambov, Oryol, Lipetsk, Chelyabinsk, Odessa, Pavlodar and Turgay regions, to mention but a few.

The Krasnoyarsk Territory and the Penza, Kurgan and Uralsk regions are in fact marking time as regards grain crop yields. The output of sugar-beet remains at a low level in many collective and state farms of the Central Black Earth area.

The Rostov, Chita, Taldy-Kurgan and East Kazakhstan regions and the Altay Territory did not make full use of the available possibilities for the production of meat and failed to fulfill the plan for meat sales to the state. Milk-yields on collective farms and state farms in Kemergovo, Ulyanovsk, Zhitmomir and Minsk regions did not grow in practice during these years. The efficiency of animal breeding remains low, as before, and the task of providing the population's requirements in meat and dairy products through their own production in the Transcaucasian and Central Asian Republics is being solved but slowly.

If one takes data on other products, there, too, not all worked equally and with due intensity. This can be seen from the materials of the Central Statistical Board specially prepared for the Central Committee's plenum and circulated among its participants. The heads of regions, territories and republics should critically analyse these indicators, compare their own performance with that of their neighbours having a higher level of production and procurement of products and draw the necessary conclusions.

The shortfall in the output of products during the first two years of the five-year period should be made up for and measures taken to ensure that the assignments set by the CPSU's Twenty-Fifth Congress are fulfilled without fail. There are good prerequisites for this. One can say with great satisfaction that the spring-time test has been passed successfully--the spring sowing was carried out in good time and at a high qualitative level. Matters are improving in the field of livestock breeding. The wintering of animals proceeded normally. As compared with last year, more meat and eggs have been produced, and the head of animals and poultry of all kinds has grown. I would say that the situation is shaping up favourably on the whole.

But ahead of us, comrades, is the most responsible period--harvest-time. The mains task is to prepare the material and technical basis in good time and in a comprehensive manner, to harvest the crops in the shortest possible time and without losses. It is necessary to make maximum possible use of the ample opportunities offered by the summer season for further boosting the output of livestock-breeding products. What is really important is to build up reliable stocks of high-quality fodder for the forthcoming wintering of animals.

It is a no less important task to see to it that every kilogram of finished products reaches the consumer. In this field, much will depend on the efficient, well-coordinated and conscientious work of procurement, trade and transport organisations, processing enterprises, of all those through whose hands pass the valuable products needed by the people and gained by hard work.

Questions of Collective-Farm and State-Farm Economics

Comrades, the ensurance of stable and well-adjusted economic relations in agriculture, and also between sectors of the agro-industrial complex, plays an exceptionally important role in solving the problems of boosting agricultural production. After the March 1965 plenum of the Central Committee, as I have already said, considerable work has been done in this direction.

Life does not stand still, however. In the past years, as a result of the party's and the people's tremendous efforts, the productive forces in the countryside have risen to a new level, the scale of production on collective farms and state farms increased, the socialization and division of labour have been further developed and economic relations between sectors of the agro-industrial complex have been expanded and become more involved. All these far-reaching changes call for further improvements in the economic machinery. This concerns questions of planning, incentives, strengthening the cost-accounting basis, and improving inter-relations between all sectors of the agro-industrial complex.

First of all, I want to deal with planning--a major lever in managing agricultural production. Of late, apart from fixed plans, the so-called general volumes of purchases and various additional assignments have begun to be set. Thus plurality of plans has, in effect, appeared. Somewhere, the practice of frequently and groundlessly amending them has been revived.

This detracts from the mobilising role of plans, adversely affects the organisation of production and economic activity, and stimulates but feebly the struggle for further boosting production. This situation should be remedied. In the next five-year plan period, a single plan of purchases of agricultural products should be drawn up for republics, territories and regions, districts, collective farms and state farms for the five years with a yearly breakdown.

At the same time incentives should be improved for farms securing high indicators in the growth of production and in the sales of products to the state. There are different proposals on this score. Apparently, questions of further improving the system of incentives for the sales of agricultural products should be thoroughly studied with the extensive participation of practical workers and by enlisting the services of scientific institutions so as to draft, say, within a year's time, specific proposals, which the Council of Ministers of the USSR should examine and submit for consideration by the CPSU Central Committee. Such principles of planning and incentives should be worked out that would create more favourable conditions for expanded reproduction at the present stage, improve the substantiation of plans and ensure the elimination of a subjective approach to drawing them up that still exists locally.

Thought should also be given to increasing the inter-connection between material incentives for state-farm workers and collective farmers and the results of their work, effective use of production assets and material resources. It is also important to improve the procedure of awarding bonuses to farm heads and specialists.

The comprehensive intensification of agriculture objectively widens and deepens its ties with the branches of industry, which supply the countryside with material and technical means and process raw materials. What is needed in such circumstances is well-organized cooperation between partners. Unfortunately, we have not yet succeeded in finally doing away with some negative phenomena in this matter.

Of fundamental importance is the question of prices on the manufactured products supplied to the countryside, and also of payment for the services rendered by the farm-machinery supply organisation and several other organisations catering for collective farms and state farms. The facts of the last few years show that far from everything has been adjuted in this field.

All this should be properly analysed so as to bring economic relations between sectors of the agro-industrial complex in line with the principles of socialist economic management.

In the last years, a great deal of work has been accomplished in the field of improving purchasing prices. However, everything has not yet been adjusted the way we would wish it to be. The prices of some kinds of products still fail to cover the outlays of collective farms and state farms. What does this lead to? The more products of these kinds are produced by farms, the greater are the losses they sustain, wittingly or unwittingly. The growth rate of production slows down, and at some places for this reason attempts are even being made to curtail it. Such a situation cannot be allowed to continue any longer. Of course, it is necessary, in the first place, consistently and steadily to raise labour productivity and to lower production costs. But, at the same time, one should agree to a certain rise in the prices of some products.

In this connection, a resolution has been passed to raise as from January 1, 1979, without changing retail prices, the state purchasing prices of milk, wool, karakul, mutton, potatoes and certain vegetables with a view to ensuring the profitability of producing them on collective farms and state farms. The additional sums to be paid to farms on account of the increased prices will approximate 3,200 million roubles a year.

The Council of Ministers of the USSR should continue the work of improving purchasing prices.

For the purpose of further strengthening the economies of collective farms and state farms and creating conditions for managing production on a self-supporting basis, it has also been decided to carry out several other measures. It has been thought advisable to exempt from income taxes collective farms whose profitability rate is below 25 per cent, as compared to 15 per cent in force now. The amount of compensation for losses by state farms from natural calamities is to be raised, with 1,000 million roubles from the state budget being made available for this purpose.

You know that in 1972 and in 1975 collective farms and state farms in many areas of the country found themselves, on account of an unprecedented drought, in exceptionally difficult circumstances, which could not but tell on their economies and lead to their considerable indebtedness. Therefore, for the purpose of improving the economies of these farms it has been deemed necessary to write off the collective farms' and state farms' debts under loans from the state bank to the sum of 7,300 million roubles and to defer the repayment of credits to the sum of 4,000 million roubles for a period of 12 years.

There is also the question of pensions for collective farmers. The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers passed a decision to advance the time schedules for implementing the 25th party congress's measures to improve the pension scheme for collective farmers. It is envisaged from January 1, 1980 to raise the collective farmers' minimum pensions by 40 per cent. In the next five-year period it will evidently be necessary to bring it up to the level of industrial and office workers.

The measures we are planning to carry out in order to strengthen the collective and state farms economically involve, of course, additional state spending. But they open up new possibilities for a more rapid growth of collective and state farm production and it can be said with confidence that they will be more than recouped by additional grain, meat, milk and other agricultural produce contributed to the resources of the state.

But here I should like to say once again that returns in agriculture are not yet sufficient, compared with investment. And we all, beginning from the Central Committee, its departments, above all the Agricultural Department, as well as the USSR Council of Ministers, the State Planning Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and other agricultural departments, party and local government executives of all levels should be fully aware of this. The task of better utilising material and financial resources in the collective and state farms, and of increasing the efficiency of agricultural production in the present conditions should be given top priority. For this purpose it is necessary in all economic sectors from top to bottom to launch a still more vigorous drive for economy and thriftiness, for lower production costs and against instances of mismanagement and squandering. Only this way can lead to the efficient utilisation of the countryside's economic potential.

As preparations were made for the plenary meeting, a number of questions arose dealing with improvement of management in agricultural production. They concerned the higher role and responsibility and greater rights and duties of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and agricultural bodies in republics, territories, regions and districts, and soyuzselkhoztekhnika, better supplies and improved production and technical services for the collective and state farms. These questions deserve to be examined and are important in enhancing the efficiency of work.

The USSR Council of Ministers should, together with the republics, examine all these matters, formulate the necessary proposals and submit them to the CPSU Central Committee.

Greater Activity and Efficiency in Promoting Inter-Farm Cooperation

Comrades, specialisation and concentration of production, that is, a further socialisation of socialist production and labour as the Marxist-Leninists call it, is an imperative demand of our life, one of the decisive foundations of our advance. The Central Committee, having looked carefully into the performance of basis and also into the practice of the fraternal socialist countries, focussed on this major social development the attention of the entire party and the state and put it on planned lines. As you know, in May 1976 the CPSU Central Committee adopted a resolution on "Further Specialisation and Concentration of Agricultural Production on the Basis of Inter-Farm Cooperation and Agro-Industrial Integration."

The Central Committee's decision has the full support of the party and the people and is regarded as a major political programmatic document. It embodies and furthers in specific conditions the ideas of the great cooperative plan put forward by Lenin.

With the publication of the resolution, fruitful work on a large scale started in the localities. Detailed plans have been made and are being put into effect for specialisation and concentration of agricultural production, with more than 8,000 inter-farm and agro-industrial enterprises and associations functioning in the country at present. This is a new type of enterprise in the countryside, producing already large quantities of various products.

By cooperative efforts the collective and state farms set up modern enterprises for the production of meat and milk, for pedigree animal breeding, for the output of fodder. As a rule, labour productivity and rates of output growth at inter-farm livestock raising associations are higher than on the collective and state farms.

In crop farming, on the basis of cooperation, joint enterprises are being established for seed production, to grow vegetables, fruit, grapes and other crops. The high level of intensification in farming is inconceivable without inter-farm cooperation in the use of machinery, in the application of chemicals and in land improvement. Here, too, appropriate associations are being set up. Valuable experience in this respect, tested in practice, is available in Moldavia and other parts of the country. Apart from the output of farm produce, inter-farm cooperation is also being introduced in all other spheres of life in the countryside.

The well-considered organisation of this important work makes it possible, with less spending and in less time, to attain the targets the party sets before agriculture. But we must remember that this is no simple work. In organisational, scientific, technical and economic terms it is undoubtedly far more complicated than, say, the enlargement of collective farms, that is, something we have done in the recent past.

Implementing the course we have taken in this matter requires day-to-day attention, concrete leadership, and detailed analysis of practical results. The party's course towards specialisation and concentration of agricultural production does not mean at all the slackening of attention to some or other branches in the collective and state farms, and especially their curtailment. That would do harm to the national economy.

Inter-farm cooperation and the intensification of collective and state farm production are the only and most effective way of increasing the output of agricultural produce.

Unfortunately, there are facts on record when no necessary conclusions are drawn from the Central Committee's warnings on this question, with cuts in the head of livestock and even closure of whole farms tolerated. The basic question in conducting work on specialisation and concentration is profound thought given to it, scientific substantiation and high production effect.

At the same time we cannot but be worried that the work to implement the Central Committee's resolution is not yet in full spate everywhere. If we look at the root of shortcomings and negative phenomena in the work on specialisation and concentration of agricultural production, we may easily see that the main thing here is apparently the fact that among our cadres there are many people who have not yet grasped either the vital necessity of the profound meaning of all this work. Some give their own interpretations to the Central Committee's warning against haste in this undertaking. They have seen it as a possibility to stretch the work over many years. That is a mistake. The resolution is dealing not with deadlines, but with the quality of work. To do well does not mean doing it long.

Inter-farm cooperation is a big and complicated objective process. It cannot be held back, nor can it be hastened. The work should be carried out in a planned fashion, with careful consideration given to it, in conjunction with other measures for the intensification of agricultural production. This is, of course, voluntary undertaking, and we shall strictly adhere to this principle. But voluntariness and laissez-faire are anti-podal, [as received] not close cousins.

I have some hard words for individual union bodies and above all the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and the USSR State Planning Committee. They have not yet become centres for coordinating and directing all work on specialisation and concentration of agricultural production in the country. Narrow departmental positions are not infrequently taken by some top executives of ministries and departments, particularly in the food, meat and dairy industry. Instead of vigorously collaborating with agricultural bodies in the development of production cooperation, they slow down this progressive process and occasionally, to put it mildly, do not recommend their farms to join in inter-farm cooperation, or seek to set up isolated associations.

These are the most essential conclusions and remarks that have to be taken into account in the further work on implementing the CPSU Central Committee's resolution. At the same time, as experience suggests, more concrete recommendations are needed on some fundamental aspects of the work being done. Particular attention and serious treatment should be given to a choice of the best organisational forms of specialisation and concentration on the basis of inter-farm cooperation and agro-industrial integration when applied to the various branches and directions of agriculture. We need not all sorts of associations, but only those that really raise to a new level the socialist socialisation of production and labour, are based on the latest achievements in science, engineering and technology, ensure the highest productivity and give a maximum of lowcost produce.

Our own practice offers a great variety of forms. The thing to be done is to examine them thoroughly and select the ones most suitable and most effective for each given branch.

In general, comrades, we should be more active in putting on a practical plane the work on specialisation and concentration of agricultural production. Questions of inter-farm cooperation should become standing items in the agenda of rural party organisations, district, regional and republic leading bodies.

It must become a firm conviction of us all that by way of specialisation and concentration of agricultural production through inter-farm cooperation and agro-industrial integration our agriculture, using the advantages of the socialist system, will be able greatly to quicken the rate of its advance and much more fully to satisfy the country's growing requirements in food and in raw materials for industry.

More Attention to Construction in the Countryside

Comrades, successful implementation of the big programme for boosting agriculture further is connected directly with the organisation of capital construction. Concern for the development of rural construction is now a major component part of the party's agrarian policy.

Since the March 1965 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee a great deal has been done to expand and raise the level of rural construction as a new branch of the national economy. I will remind you that specialised state building organisations were set up, united in the USSR Ministry of Rural Construction. The system we already have of inter-collective farm building organisations is increasing its capacities.

Over the past ten years the state and the collective farms have invested almost 16,000 million roubles in the provision of production facilities for rural construction. Some three million builders are now working on the construction of rural projects. This is a new and big section of the working class in the countryside. The Ministry of Rural Construction and inter-collective farm building organisations have already reached the mark of more than 10,000 million roubles' worth of building and assembly work a year.

This means that every year sees more and more installations built in the villages--livestock raising units, poultry farms, repair shops, agrochemical centres, grain elevators, mixed food plants, storages for seeds, potatoes and vegetables, and hot-houses.

Rural construction today is very important for solving social problems as well. The party is firmly committed to its line of radically improving the living, cultural and every-day conditions in the countryside. I have already said recently that a total of 450 million square metres of housing has been built in the rural localities in the past 13 years. You may recall that in the pre-war year 1940 this was the total housing available in all cities and towns of our country. Housing development both in the countryside and in cities is being put on an industrial basis. Rural communities are being developed comprehensively, according to existing master plans. Together with residential buildings modern public projects are being erected. Now it is not rare to see in a village a modern shopping centre, well-equipped public services centre, canteen or cosy cafe.

Not so long ago construction of creches and kindergartens in the villages was a very rare occasion and these as a rule were accomodated in primitive buildings. Since 1965 standard designs have been used to build pre-school establishments for nearly two million children, general educational schools for 11 million pupils, clubs and palaces of culture with a total seating capacity of eight million, and many public health and municipal service centres and sports grounds.

And yet rural construction still remains a bottleneck, I would say. Despite the measures taken the production facilities of construction in the countryside are as yet inadequate. More than one-third of building work is done by the collective and state farms by the economic method, and this greatly reduces the quality of building, results in delays and greater costs.

As a result of capital investment scattered over a large number of building projects, the time schedules for putting capacities in farming into operation are not observed, which increases the amount of construction in progress.

In design and building inadequate account is taken of the specific conditions of the countryside, and industrial components and structures are often mechanically introduced. I have already said that new construction is very expensive now. Over the past ten years, for example, the cost of accommodation per animal on milk farms has risen by more than three times, on pig-fattening complexes by four times. Instances are not rare when heavy materials are used in construction, there is unjustified sophistication in power circuits, and units are over-fitted with cumbersome equipment. On some new livestock-raising farms and complexes there are up to eight cubic metres of concrete per cow and up to 400 kilogrammes of metal per calf. Isn't that too heavy for the animals?

In designs used for rural building projects there are also serious failings, extravagances are tolerated, and slight account is taken of zonal features, which in the final analysis pre-determines greatly the low efficiency of capital investments. The present procedure for economic incentives and for assessing the work of buildings and designers has a negative effect. It stimulates building costlier, rather than cheaper projects.

There are many complaints and criticisms on the part of both builders and the farms about the provision of building sites with equipment and materials. Things are greatly confused and muddled here. Farm managers, in order to get complete sets of equipment for building projects, often have to go through dozens of stages and to send messengers to all parts of the country.

If we look at housing construction and the provisions of recreational and public service facilities in the countryside or the supply of water in steppe areas, we shall see that there are still more shortcomings over there. There is a systematic failure to carry out the plans to turn housing over for tenancy and complete the construction of child welfare facilities and other projects connected with the improvement of services, health care and recreational facilities for rural inhabitants in many districts, regions and republics.

We must make a sharper turn towards the construction and improvement of recreational and service facilities for agricultural workers in the countryside. It would be reasonable to ask the USSR Council of Ministers to draft concrete long-range plans by 1979 for improving the entire business of organising industrial, housing, recreational and public service construction in the countryside, having allocated more funds for the purpose.

This programme should embrace a whole range of problems connected with accelerated development of industrial facilities for rural construction. It must provide for the establishment of major rural building complexes designed to put out full sets of light industrial structures of high degree of readiness at factory level for building industrial premises to be turned over to the customers ready for service, the creation of production units for carrying out special building and assembly work, measures to intensify housing construction, setting up of a network of rural housebuilding complexes and the development of wood panel house-building. Considering the importance of keeping manpower in the countryside, farm machine operators and specialists, first and foremost, we could afford to reallocate some of the general funds for nonproductive building in favour of the countryside.

There must be the right approach to rural construction, considering the specific characteristics of the life and interests of the rural population. Evidently, rural construction should be aimed at providing families, as a rule, with their own well-appointed houses complete with private holdings and backyard premises for domestic livestock, poultry as well as private means of conveyance.

It is very important to ensure the development of individual and cooperative house-building financed by the rural population with their own money. A relevant decision has been taken to stimulate individual homebuilding with long-term loans on easy terms.

It is necessary to give close attention to combining new building with reconstructing and modernising business premises on collective farms and state farms, livestock premises, first and foremost. It may be recalled that in earlier years the collective farms and state farms have built a large number of fundamental standard-type premises. These have to be reconstructed and adapted to modern requirements. Such an approach, as has been pointed out more than once, makes it possible to apply forward-looking technologies of production at lower costs. However, this job has not yet assumed its due proportions. Designers are shirking it, builders do not see it as a paying proposition, and planning agencies and supply organisations do not provide for making equipment available to this end. The USSR Council of Ministers and appropriate departments must set things right in this matter and create the conditions to stimulate reconstruction work on rural industrial projects.

I should now like to touch on such an important issue as road building. The continued advance of agricultural production and enhancement of the living standards of the rural population are directly connected with the development of the network of motor roads--the major transport arteries, the life lines, one may say, of the countryside. Yet good roads are still far and few between. Agricultural losses because of the lack of roads are still too high.

The USSR Planning Committee and the councils of ministers of the constituent republics should have road building properly featured in economic and social development plans and duly kept up with financial and material resources.

Concern for manpower in rural construction is, as indeed everywhere else, a matter of paramount importance. The country's institutions of higher learning produce a great number of good specialists for industrial and urban construction. However, designing and building in the countryside have some specific features of their own. It would be right for the Ministry of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education to train still more building engineers and architects expressly for employment in the countryside. National and local authorities must give more attention to training well-qualified building workers for the countryside within the vocational training system and to improving their living and working conditions.

It is well known that patronising of the countryside by cities and industrial centres has a great part to play. Experience of recent years in this respect has offered quite a few valuable forms of this work to emulate. I am referring to the assistance provided for designing and building hothouse facilities, livestock farms, fodder producing establishments, housing, recreational and service facilities. Some enterprises are making certain types of machinery, mechanisms and spare parts which the countryside has in short supply, and training farm machine operators. A large amount of work is being done to improve recreational and cultural services for crop and stock farmers.

Much is being done in this direction by the party organisations of Moscow and Moscow region, Leningrad, Sverdlovsk, Kiev, Dniepropetrovsk, Volgograd, Minsk and Tashkent. The initiative taken and experience gained by these party organisations deserve to be seconded in every way by the party committees of other cities and industrial centres.

Organisational and Ideological Work in the Countryside

Comrades, the new stage in the drive to advance agriculture must be matched by a still higher standard of party guidance and better methods of mass work. We have every reason to expect the party organisations to cope with these tasks worthily.

Our party's prestige in the countryside is continuously rising. It goes much to the credit of the party and its local organisations that party contingents in the countryside have appreciably grown since the March plenary meeting of the Central Committee. The party organisation in the countryside today has a membership of 5 million 800 thousand communists, 1 million 200 thousand more than in 1965. Two million 700 thousand full and candidate members of the party are engaged directly in agricultural production, primarily in its major sectors.

In short, rural communists are a big and efficient army of workers, primary party organisations are its backbone. It is these organisations that are directly responsible for the solution of all problems of production and education. It is their persistent and consistent work and their ability to rouse and organise people that are decisively instrumental in consistently and effectively carrying out the party's agrarian policy.

The experience of the past few years has amply proved how correct and farsighted the Central Committee has been in reconstituting and consolidating district party committees as the principal political bodies in the countryside, and the authoritative vehicles of party guidance of the economy, social and cultural activities in the countryside. There are more than 3,000 of them now. The district party committees are increasingly applying a genuinely creative style of party work. We must go on enhancing the role of the rural district party committees. This is a job for the whole of our party to do.

Regional and territorial party committees and the central committees of the communist parties of the constituent republics are carrying on a vast amount of organisational work in agricultural management.

They have accumulated considerable experience in the practical application of the party's agrarian policy and marshalling the efforts of the party organisations, the soviets of people's deputies, trade unions, the young communist league and all agricultural workers to tackle the major problems of development of agricultural production and those of raising its efficiency.

However, it would be uncritical of ourselves to say that the work of all party committees is up to all modern requirements. We have to admit that certain party committees fail to give adequate attention to the economic and social processes under way in the countryside, to see all the new opportunities created for the faster growth of agricultural production or be always objective in assessing the state of things, sometimes tending to overrate the results achieved.

Some time ago, as you know, the party's Central Committee reviewed the work of the Tambov regional party committee. It noted big shortcomings in the region's agricultural development and the style and methods of the regional party committee's work. The leadership the regional party committee provided had often been willful, sometimes in disregard of the opinion of the core of the local party organisation and specialists, and in commanding tones. The regional party committee failed to rely properly on district party committees and primary party organisations. It tuned down criticism and self-criticism.

Those are, of course, isolated instances, but isolated though they are, they are utterly inadmissible and intolerable in the modern context. The Party's Central Committee could not put up with such a state of things, and drew, as you know, the necessary organisational conclusions.

The Central Committee's plenary meeting in December 1977 considered the issue of discipline and that of a high sense of responsibility of manpower as one of full urgency. This is something I must speak about today as well. It is one of the major fundamentals of all our activities. Take, for example, the progress of fulfillment of procurement plans.

In any year, whether good or lean, in every region, territory or republic, we have some collective farms and state farms failing to carry out their plans of sales of certain products to the state. This is principally attributable to a lack of responsibility and an inadequately exacting attitude to manpower. References are sometimes made to difficulties and objective causes, but whatever the difficulties may be, nobody has the right to damage the common interests and break state discipline. The regional and territorial party committees as well as the central committees of the communist parties of the constituent republics must step up their efforts to end such practices and root out whatever breeds them, improve all forms of party, government and public supervision.

Manpower work has been and remains to be the key problem of party guidance of agriculture. In this area, as I have already said, much has been done, but far from everything has yet been done. What worries us most is the issue of middle management--sector, team and farm chiefs. Agricultural specialists make up so far only 40 percent of the staff engaged in these jobs. There are many educated people in the countryside today, and we must constantly look for and find among them those who could make good business managers. Party organisations must show more concern for the selection, allocation and training of this type of manpower.

More about farm machine operators. Our country has a wideranging system to train them. But, unfortunately, far from all of the trained farm machine operators do actually on collective and state farms.

The problems of training and keeping farm machine operators in the countryside are a matter of our constant concern, but we have not yet found a full solution to this problem. A study of this issue has shown that what matters increasingly in this respect is the conditions of life and work and the extent of meeting the cultural and intellectual needs of the people. Business executives, party and trade union organisations must make fuller use of the considerable potentiatlities every collective farm and state farm has for this purpose.

It is not only production but relations between people, their everyday life, their cultural education, mentality and consciousness that are an object of the party's unfailing attention. One of the major tasks before us today is to combine agricultural production with culture seen in the broadest possible sense as the culture of work, everyday life and human relationship. You know that since the 25th congress, the CPSU Central Committee has considered some issues involved in extending the material facilities for cultural and recreational institutions in the countryside and improving the operation of the schools of general education and those of the vocational training system.

The only way to look at this matter today is this: farm managers, party committees, local government and trade union bodies must show no less concern for meeting the farm workers' demand for housing and service facilities as well as their increased cultural requirements, as they do for the development of production.

The task of advancing agriculture, to quote Lenin, "cannot possible be fulfilled by single acts of heroic fervour; it requires the most prolonged, most persistent and most difficult mass heroism in plain, everyday work". (V.I. Lenin, COLL. WORKS Vol 3, p. 423)

And this heroism of plain, everyday work of millions upon millions finds its striking expression in the actual practical work and in the productive, social and political activities of the masses, in the sweeping scope of socialist emulation. What matters to us is both the concrete economic results of labour competition and the great educational potentialities it offers.

The ultimate economic objective of emulation is to produce more grain, meat, milk and other products and at lower costs. And it is important for us to know by what particular means the best results have been achieved, and for what particular reasons some have moved up in front while others have stayed where they were, and still others have fallen behind, and why, finally, what has proved possible on one collective farm or state farm has not been achieved on another? Why is there still such a discrepancy between economic performances?

In short, there is ample room for action by the party, trade union, YCL organisations and soviets of people's deputies, as well as for our press, television and radio, indeed, for all who can and must bring into play their experience, tried out by science and practical activity. We must give every possible support to the initiatives of farm workers, such as the drive of crop and stock farmers to raise bumper harvests, achieve the highest possible rates of livestock productivity, and reduce production costs; that of farm machine operators to make the utmost use of the technical potentialities of machinery; and that of entire collective farms and state farms to step up the productivity of their labour and fulfil the assignment of the present five-year plan ahead of schedule.

It is up to the rural communists to lead the emulation. The important thing is for all party organisations and communists in the countryside to be first to grasp the full meaning of the targets of the party's agrarian policy at the present stage and the ways of attaining them. They are expected to apply their methods of party persuasion and communist education to enable millions of people to understand these tasks, inspire them and concentrate their efforts on carrying into effect the party's program of agricultural development. Every communist must set a model of selfless work. He must be an able organiser and a carrier of advanced know-how, taking the common cause as one of his own vital concern and striving to create an atmosphere of close-knit, selfless and creative collective work. A communist cannot and must not close his eyes to a careless attitude to one's job, nor tolerate any facts of mismanagement, heavy drinking, loafing or any other misbehavious dishonouring the Soviet man.

Comrades, we have golden ears of wheat in our state emblem. They are not there by chance. Our bread is the product of the combined effort of the peasant, worker and intellectual. The advance of agriculture is an inalienable part of the country's all-round economic progress. The economy, as Lenin emphasised, involves "the deepest roots of the human life of hundreds of millions". And it is in matters affecting the life of millions, the conditions of their everyday life and work that the communists have the most serious politics to pursue and the major route to follow in their organisational, ideological and political work.

The solution of the big and complex problems posed by the CPSU Central Committee in agriculture will make it possible to raise still higher the people's standard of living. This is the meaning of the measures this plenary meeting has been called to consider. It will take a hard effort, energy and creative initiative of the masses, as well as the entire rich experience of the party and the knowledge and organising ability of its core to achieve the targets fixed.

Let me express my conviction that the party organisations, communists, YCLers and workers of town and countryside will do everything to translate the decisions of this plenary meeting into reality.

CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM ADOPTS DECISION ON AGRICULTURE

LD041350Y Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 4 Jul 78 LD

["Decision of Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, July 4 TASS--Having heard and discussed the report of Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, "On the Further Development of Agriculture of the USSR," the plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union notes that the report contains a comprehensive, profound scientific analysis of the party's policy and practical efforts to develop socialist agriculture at the contemporary stage, sets forth the principal ways and concrete measures of its further advancement. This is pointed out in the decision of the plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee "On the Further Development of Agriculture of the USSR". The plenary meeting completed its work in Moscow today. The decision stresses that the plenary meeting of the Central Committee approves fully and completely the assessment of the achieved positive results, given in Leonid Brezhnev's report, and also the criticism of shortcomings in the work of party, government and agricultural bodies, ministries and departments in carrying out the decisions of the 25th Congress of the CPSU on agriculture.

Since the March (1965) plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, which ushered in a new stage in the development of the Leninist agrarian policy of the party, the country's agriculture has made major advances economically and socially. Firmly adhering to the mapped out course, the party was able to solve a broad range of agrarian problems, the document notes.

The material-technical basis of agriculture has been strengthened substantially. Much has been done to develop the industry that serves the needs of farming. The technical equipment of collective and state farms has improved greatly. The machine and tractor fleet of the farms has been renewed almost completely and improved qualitatively. The power capacities of agricultural enterprises have grown more than two-fold, while the per worker power supply in collective and state farms has increased 2.5-fold. The process of electrification of agriculture is proceeding vigorously.

The party has devoted great attention to the development of chemisation and land amelioration. In 1977 the countryside received 77 million tons of mineral fertilisers. The area of irrigated and drained lands almost doubled and reached 27 million hectares.

The CPSU Central Committee, the decision says, has highly assessed the huge economic and social importance of specialisation and concentration of agricultural production on the basis of inter-farm cooperation and agro-industrial integration.

Much work has been done to perfect the planning of production and procurements, price formation, crediting, labour remuneration. As a result of this the economic state of collective and state farms has improved noticeably, as well as the material standards of collective farmers and state farm workers.

The Central Committee of the CPSU, the party and local government organs on the spot combine the tasks of developing agricultural production with the solution of social problems of the countryside. Payment for the work of collective farmers and state farm workers has doubled. Extensive work is being done in the sphere of pensioning and providing social insurance to collective farmers.

Housing, social and cultural construction is being extended steadily in the countryside. Capital investments in the social development of the countryside topped 40,000 million roubles in 1965-1977.

Implementing the complex program of developing agriculture, the working people of the countryside, guided by the Communist Party, have raised labour productivity and considerably increased on this basis the production of crop farming and livestock breeding, the decision says. The average annual volume of gross agricultural production grew 1.4-fold in the past seven years as compared to the same period prior to the March plenary meeting of the Central Committee. Grain output increased by 61.5 million tons, raw cotton--by 3 million tons, sugar beet--by 25 million tons, vegetables--by 6.8 million tons, potatoes--by 5.5 million tons. The crop yields and gross harvests of all the other agricultural crops have increased.

Positive processes occur in the development of animal husbandry. The average annual volume of this sector's production in the same period grew by 45 percent, meat production increased from 9.2 to 14 million tons, milk--from 63.9 to 88.8 million tons, eggs--to 53.5 milliards, or 1.9-fold.

The population's consumption of products, as well as goods made of agricultural raw materials including cotton, woollen and flax fabrics, grew steadily on the basis of expanding production.

Noting the great importance of the work done since the March (1965) plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee to raise the country's agriculture, the CC plenum holds at the same time that the over-all level of this vitally important sector's development still does not conform to the rapidly growing requirements of society and vigorous efforts are needed to further strengthen the material-technical basis of agriculture, to improve the organisation of production and to enhance its effectiveness with a view to ensuring shortly a much fuller satisfaction of the needs in foodstuffs and industrial raw materials.

There still are serious shortcomings in the production of grain and other farm crops, the document says. The harvest yield of grain is growing but not adequately. There still are low yields in the gross harvest of sugar beet, sunflower, vegetables and potatoes. Losses in farm produce are still big for a number of reasons, specifically inadequate organization of cultivation, harvesting, processing and storing.

In recent years, a big systematic job has been done in the intensification of stock-breeding but this branch in its development has not yet reached the required level, especially, for meat production.

Milk yields are still low, there are cases of barreness, expenditure of labour and fodder have actually not been reduced, production costs are going up. Many party organizations, governmental and agricultural agencies and leaders of collective farms and state farms are not contributing sufficiently to the intensification of stockbreeding, its switching to an industrial basis, which retards a rise in effectiveness of the branch. Fodder production is still seriously lagging behind. This is one of the main causes of the inadequate rate of expansion of stockbreeding.

One of the factors, retarding the growth of farm production is still inadequate delivery of up-to-date powerful tractors, motor vehicles and farming machinery, mineral fertilizers and means of plant protection to collective farms and state farms, and also the lagging behind of the processing industry.

Shortcomings have not yet been overcome in the utilization of capital investments, machinery and other material resources, allocated to agriculture.

The Central Committee plenum points out that the plans for the first two years of the Tenth Five-Year Plan period have not been fully carried out both for overall gross agricultural production and for several of its types.

Planning in agriculture and economic relations between branches of the agroindustrial complex must be further improved.

There are many shortcomings in carrying out specialization and concentration of agricultural production on the basis of interfarm cooperation and agroindustrial integration.

The lagging behind of construction seriously retards a further rise in the productive forces of agriculture and in the accomplishment of the big social tasks in the countryside.

Some party committees do not always thoroughly scrutinize the economic and social processes in the village, sometimes do not see all new opportunities for a more rapid expansion of agricultural production.

The plenum of the CPSU Central Committee resolves, bearing in mind the experience of previous years and the results achieved, which convincingly confirm the scientific substantiation and vital force of the Leninist agrarian policy of the CPSU, to deem it necessary to continue most persistently the course worked out by the March 1965 plenum, subsequent plenary meetings of the Central Committee and congresses of the party.

The plenum endorsed the steps for the further expansion of agriculture, worked out by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and set forth in Leonid Brezhnev's report, obligated the Central Committee of the communist parties of the union republics, other party, governmental and agricultural bodies, the heads of ministries and departments, industrial enterprises, collective farms and state farms, primary party organizations to take effective steps to eliminate the shortcomings to which attention was drawn in this decision and in Leonid Brezhnev's report.

The plenum resolved to regard as the main task in agriculture the all-round, dynamic development and considerable increase in the effectiveness of all its branches, reliable supply of food and agricultural raw materials to the country, so as to ensure a further rise in the living standards of the people, the utmost stepping up of efforts for the accomplishment of the task of narrowing the gap between the material, cultural and living conditions in town and countryside.

Proceeding from this, the plenum deemed it necessary to envisage in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (1981-1985) an average annual gross grain harvest of 238-243 million tons and by 1990 to bring the per capita figure up to one ton on the average in the country. Meat production by the end of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan period will be brought up to 19.5 million tons. The production of milk, eggs, vegetables, potatoes, sugar beet, cotton and other foodstuffs will also be increased.

The decision notes the need of ensuring the all-round strengthening and further development of the material-technical basis of agriculture, having in view a planned transition of this sector to an industrial foundation, of providing for an appropriate increase of capital investments in agriculture.

Intensification of agricultural production on the basis of its all-out mechanisation and electrification, chemisation and land amelioration remains the main direction of the party's agrarian policy at the present stage.

In the new five-year plan period it is necessary to complete the complex mechanisation of jobs connected with the cultivation of all the principal agricultural crops and to raise to the maximum the level of mechanisation in livestock breeding. The plenary meeting of the Central Committee stresses, the document says, that put to the fore now is the task of ensuring a more rapid development of animal husbandry. The primary task is to increase meat output.

The plenary meeting of the Central Committee stresses particularly that grain production remains the most urgent job in agriculture. The task is to strengthen and further the achieved successes, to overfulfil the assignments of the current five-year plan in grain production. One of the most important tasks of agriculture in the current quinquennium and in the perspective period is to increase in every possible way the production and state procurements of sunflower, sugar beet, cotton, particularly its fine fibre varieties, potatoes, vegetables, fruits and other farm produce.

The decision stresses the need of constantly keeping in the spotlight the questions of economics in agriculture, of raising production efficiency and lowering the net cost of production, as well as perfecting economic relations among sectors of the agro-industrial complex. These relations must promote the commonness, unity of interests of the state, collective farms and immediate producers, serve as an active factor in the growth of labour productivity. It is necessary to take into account without fail V.I. Lenin's indication that correct combination of the interests of all sides, taking part in the production and sale of goods, is one of the main principles of socialist economic management.

In its decision the plenary meeting of the Central Committee drew attention to the need of raising the efficiency of scientific research as one of the decisive factors of accelerating scientific and technical progress in agricultural production, noted that it is necessary to ensure a more adequate attention by party, local government, trade unions and economic organisations to the transformation of the countryside, improvement of housing, cultural and living conditions of the rural working people. The new stage of the drive to further advance agriculture must be matched by a still higher standard of party leadership, more efficient methods of organisational and political work in the masses, the document says.

In conclusion the plenary meeting of the Central Committee expressed firm conviction that the collective farmers, state farm workers, machine operators, specialists, scientists, managers of husbandries, workers of industry, all the working people of town and countryside will unanimously approve the decisions of the present plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, will ensure by their selfless labour their successful fulfilment, which will make for a faster solution of the party's main task--to raise substantially the living standards of the Soviet people.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 4 July, in reporting on the CPSU Central Committee plenum, notes: "Taking part in the debates on the report by Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the further development of agriculture in the USSR, were Comrades Mesyats, USSR minister of agriculture; Masherov, first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee; Avramanko, first secretary of the Amurskiy Obkom of the CPSU; Gorbachev, first secretary of the Stavropolskiy Kraykom of the CPSU; Ignatov, first secretary of the Voronezhskiy Obkom of the CPSU; Sinitsyn, USSR minister of tractor and agricultural machinebuilding; Shevardnadze, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee; (Poberey), first secretary of the Leninskiy Raykom of the CPSU in Volgogradskaya Oblast; and Voss, first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee."]

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